

A vision for our

LIFE TOGETHER

Nurture | Generosity | Worship | Service | Invitation

Wk 4

Sunday 20 August 2023

Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels. If you don't wish to feature on our stream, please occupy the pews towards the back.

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16 (p. 1175)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
Account Number:
00490436

If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're glad you can join us today. We always enjoy having new people and visitors. We think there is no better place to be on a Sunday! We would love to hear from you. Please say hi to one of the staff or use the Connect Card. You can access the card electronically using the QR Code.



Most parts of our church life are a product of the selfless service of our members. Our children's ministry, our hospitality, our Sunday services are all products of the freely given time of members.

In a world where it is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers, followers of Jesus are called to lay down their lives, their ambitions and their autonomy and serve others. Why? God is the great Servant King. The best example? Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

Next Steps

Are you new? We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our [Newish Morning Tea](#) today after the 9:45am Service.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next [Belonging Course](#) on Sunday 10 September. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community.

Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We confess that we have wandered from your way:
we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit
that we may live as disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:12

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever
Amen.

Sermon Notes

Better Together in Service | Ephesians 4:1-16

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. A life that is worthy

2. The Distinctive Marks

a. Service for Growth

b. Rejecting 'my way'

3. "Taken by the King"

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. Watch the video “5.1 - How do I care for someone...”

- a. Now consider 1 Thes 4:13 & Heb 6:19. Why do Christians respond differently to grief?

- b. What do we need ‘to do’ to comfort others?

2. How does our society respond to grief, disasters and death?

3. Read 2 Cor 1:1-11

- a. Why does God put us in such situations?

- b. What does he want to teach us?

- c. What does he want us to do with that experience?

4. Watch the video “5.3 - Understanding Loss & Grief”

- a. What is grief?

- b. What kinds of loss do we suffer?

c. How is grief expressed?

d. What mistakes should we avoid making?

5. Watch the video “5.6 – Guiding Principles for helping ...”

Note down the 9 principles.

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What opportunities does loss & grief afford us?

Prayer Time

A. Read 2 Cor 1:3-4 and shape a prayer of thanksgiving from it.

B. Read 2 Cor 1:3-4 and shape a prayer of request for yourself or someone else.



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your GaP Group leader and consider the following questions:

- i. How are you encouraged by the stories told?
- ii. What can your group pray for as a result of what you heard?

Read the Bible with us!

Read Lamentations 3:20-26 each day this week.

Pick one aspect of God described in the passage and shape your prayers around this for yourself or someone else who is grieving loss.

Notices

Dumpling Making Night Recap

Dumpling Making Night was a great win as a church! We were able to welcome 66 non-Stephen's guests (including kids and youth) and share Jesus with them.

It was also a great win to see the body of Christ serving together sacrificially and joyfully. Thank you to all who helped serve on the night—in the kitchen, the welcoming team, the setup and pack up team, those on the AV, those up front, those serving in the kids and youth program.

Thank you for those who prayed, those who helped with the letterbox drop (a number of guests came because of fliers), those who prepared food, those who invited friends that couldn't come, and those who brought friends. From the feedback forms, all the guests said they felt warmly welcomed by our church, enjoyed the food and hospitality, and found what was shared from the front interesting and thought-provoking. Some of them also signed up for the Simply Christianity course starting this Friday.



Simply Christianity

Simply Christianity is a free, 5-week course designed to help you explore what is at the very centre of the Christian faith—the person of Jesus. It's relaxed, friendly and honest. There's no prior experience or knowledge required.

Simply Christianity runs every Friday night from 6:30pm-8:30pm, starting 25th August and finishing on 22nd September. RSVP your attendance at st-stephens.com.au/winter

Mission Gift Day

Each year we financially support 7 link missionaries and their organisations. Pictures of each of them are in the Chapel Hall atrium. Part of our financial support is gathered from our annual church budget. We give 6.5% of our annual budget and hope to build this over the next 7 years to 10%. In the meantime, we supplement that through one-off giving on our Mission Gift Day.

This year, on Sunday 27 August we are running our Mission Gift Day appeal.

Would you and your household consider giving a one-off gift to support our link missionaries? Last year we had a target of \$20k and we hope to reach a similar figure this year. You can give by visiting our 'Give' page at st-stephens.com.au/give for bank details and adding "Mission23" to your transfer reference.



Join the Kids Ministry Team!

As a church we want to grow the young in their devotion to God's word and one of the key ways we do this is through our programs on Sunday. In an amazing answer to prayer the number of kids on a Sunday is growing! We now regularly have 10 kids in Gumnuts (preschool/toddler group). This is wonderful but it means we need 3 more leaders to join our existing teams. Your role involves forming safe relationships with kids, modelling the Christian faith and supporting other leaders in Bible teaching. We are looking for people who love Jesus, eager to learn and able to commit to 3 weeks per term. You will join a team with experienced leaders and receive all the training you need.

If you are interested in finding out more speak to Pippie or fill in the connect form.



What's Coming Up

- 25 August Simply Christianity Course - Week 1
- 26 August Weekly Prayer Meeting: Saturdays 8:30am in Chapel Hall
- 1 September Simply Christianity Course - Week 2
- 4 September Wardens' Meeting
- 10 September Belonging Course

For more on what's happening this winter at St Stephen's, visit st-stephens.com.au/winter

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