

A vision for our

LIFE TOGETHER

Nurture | Generosity | Worship | Service | Invitation

Wk 5

Sunday 27 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:
1 Peter 2:1-12
(p. 1221)
- Sermon
- Song
- 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 could be part of our time together today. There is no better place to be on Sunday! We would love to hear from you. Take a moment and fill in the Connect Card or use the QR Code. We would also love to meet you so say hi to one of the staff. If you see something that interests you in the booklet you can respond via the Connect Card.



We have spent this month considering the nature and shape of our life together as followers of Jesus. The various images the Bible uses to describe the people of God have encouraged us to commit to caring for one another, sharing with one another, worshipping together, serving each other, and together inviting the world to meet Jesus.

The people of God, gathered, is a unique thing in our world. We hope you have come to see its value in God's eyes.

Next Steps

Are you new? We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our next [Newish Morning Tea](#) on Sunday 24 September. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the 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

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:
we have not loved you with our whole heart,
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the worst.

1 Timothy 1:15

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 Mission | 1 Peter 2:1-12

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. Who are we?

2. What this means?

3 ways of enacting this

i.

ii.

iii.

Stay balanced – exiles / amongst

3. How can this be true?

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. What does it mean to be resilient as a Christian?

Read Philippians 1:15-26

Getting your head around the passage:

Use as many questions as you need to ensure you understand the passage's contents.

- A. What is the cost of serving others & Christ (see also Matt 16:24)
- B. How does he see his highs and lows?
- C. What is Paul's satisfaction? What makes him feel worth?
- D. What are Paul's hopes?
- E. Who is the most powerful person in his ministry? What does this mean for you in serving and caring for others (see also Ps 121:3-4 & Eph 6:18)

2. Watch the video "6.3 Boundaries".

a. What are 'boundaries'? Why are they helpful?

b. What areas of our lives require boundaries?

c. What dangers do we need to be aware of in relationships?

3. Read the following passages (perhaps in smaller groups and report back together). Reflect on how the author sets helpful, wise boundaries.

- Psalm 127:1-2
- Psalm 131
- Prov 3:5-8

- Prov 6:9-11
- Prov 20:1
- Prov 22:24-25

- Luke 5:15-16
- Matt 14:6-13
- 1 Tim 5:23

4. Watch the video “6.6 Self Care”.

- a. What is ‘self-care’?
- b. Why is self-care a godly response?
- c. Why is self-care an act of love?

5. Complete the Self-care Assessment (your leaders will have a copy for you).

Prayer Focus

Read 1 Corinthians 15:58.

- A. Pray that God would enable you and your group to stand firm in your faith and trust in God. Pray this for family members of your group.
- B. Share some ways you service God’s people and pray for God’s help in giving yourself fully to his labour.



GaP Group Reflection

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

- i. Which of the link missionaries we have heard from over the past month encouraged you in particular? Why?
- ii. How can your GaP Group support our link missionaries?

Read the Bible with us!

1. Read the passage.
2. What implications does it have for our life together as a church?
3. Pray for our church community.

Monday – [1 John 3:1-18](#)

Tuesday – [2 Corinthians 9:6-15](#)

Wednesday – [Hebrews 12:18-29](#)

Thursday – [Ephesians 4:1-16](#)

Friday – [1 Peter 2:1-12](#)

Mission Gift Day

27 August 2023

Target: **\$20,000**

INCLUDE AS YOUR REF - MISSION23



The Kyngdon Family



The Bathgate Family



The Costin Family



Kylie Zietsch



David Blackman



The B Family

plus the ministry of



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.

Today is Mission Gift Day. 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 today and throughout the week by visiting our 'Give' page at st-stephens.com.au/give for bank details and adding "Mission23" to your transfer reference.

Serving at Church

Last week, our Sunday message reminded us that serving together is a privilege and responsibility of God's people. Perhaps you feel daunted by the call?

Remember we also heard that God equips us with all we need to do his work and his love is guaranteed in Christ before we serve him.

Would you like to activate your service muscles? The ministry leaders would love to chat with you about how you can best do that given your stage of life, skills and experience. Take a moment and let us know your interest via the Connect Card. We will make a time to chat with you, discuss the opportunities currently available and pray for you as you seek to follow God's direction. Take this first step and see what God might have you do.

Belonging Course

Our Belonging course is the gateway into the deeper life of St Stephen's. The next course is coming up on **Sunday 10 September 12-3pm** and includes lunch, afternoon tea, a great time with others from the church, time with the staff and helpful info and discussion to bring you into the heart

of our great church family. If you want to grow spiritually, encourage, and grow others, embrace the direction of our church, and feel more comfortable belonging to St Stephen's then this is worth setting aside the time. If you haven't done the course yet, register by speaking to Jill Chilton or visiting our website - st-stephens.com.au/belonging



What's Coming Up

- 1 September Simply Christianity Course - Week 2
- 2 September Weekly Prayer Meeting: Saturdays 8:30am in Chapel Hall
- 4 September Wardens' Meeting
- 8 September Simply Christianity Course - Week 3
- 10 September Belonging Course

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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