

# THE Psalms



St Stephen's  
WILLOUGHBY

Wk 1

## Sunday 17 September 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: Psalm 10 (p. 540)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's. We are glad to have you here. We would love to hear more from you and draw you into the life of our church. You can chat with a staff member (see the back for faces) or use the Connect Card – either the paper version or the QR Code.



Today we continue an ongoing series we run each year at this time looking through the Psalms. The Psalms are songs/poetry found in the Bible. They give voice to the fears and joys of the writers but firmly entrench them in the character of God.

Each of us grapples with uncertainty, fear, worries. Hopefully we also have joys to share. To encounter these well we should do this in light of who God is. We hope you are drawn into viewing your life in light of who God is, what he has done and what he offers you through the life, death & resurrection of Jesus.

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.

### 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 5 November. 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

Heavenly Father,  
you have loved us with an everlasting love,  
but we have gone our own way,  
and rejected your will for our lives.  
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.  
For the sake of your Son who died for us,  
forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.  
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you,  
and to please you in every way;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

## Why does God stand far off in times of trouble? | Psalm 10

Preacher: Gordon Luk

### 1. A song for justice

(a) A picture of the wicked man (v. 1-11)

(b) A picture of the LORD (v. 12-18)

### 2. A song for justice sung by Jesus, the Christ

### 3. A song for justice sung by us, redeemed sinners in Christ

(a) A gospel-driven concern for justice

(b) A God-focussed response to injustice

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. “We rarely see injustice in Sydney, Australia—relatively-speaking.”  
Debate this quote; it might be interesting to divide into two teams.

## Read Psalm 10

- A. Draw a picture of the wicked man described in verses 2-11
- B. Make a list of all the attributes of God (who He is and what He has done/is being asked to do) we can see from verses 12-18

2. How might verse 1 challenge our view of God and how we can approach Him and cry out to Him? What comfort does this give you?

3. What is the danger of reading Psalm 10 without Christ? (ie. Putting ourselves into the shoes of the Psalmist straightaway)

4. Read the following verses:

- Matt 27:27-31
- Mark 15:34
- Luke 4:16-21; 23:34
- John 11:53
- Acts 17:30-31

How does Jesus ‘sing’ Psalm 10’s song for justice?

5. How does the gospel drive us to have concern for justice? How does this look different if we're driven to a concern for justice by legalism (ie. Thinking that I don't have a problem with wickedness, only others do)?

6. What does it look like to look to God first instead of human solutions in our response to injustice?

## Prayer Time

A. Thank God for forgiving our wickedness and beginning His Spirit-led work of transforming us for good works

B. Pray for victims of evil oppression and for those who oppress them.



### GaP Group Reflection

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

- i. What was encouraging about the story of the young girl Pippie spoke about in the video?
- ii. What did this reveal about reaching 'not-yet believers'?
- iii. Can your group commit to praying for this ministry? Can anyone in your group consider re-arranging things to help serve in SRE?

## Read the Bible with us!

1. Read the passage.
2. How does Jesus 'sing' this Psalm?
3. How can we sing this Psalm through Christ?

Monday - [Psalm 5](#)

Tuesday - [Psalm 6](#)

Wednesday - [Psalm 7](#)

Thursday - [Psalm 8](#)

Friday - [Psalm 9](#)

# Notices

## Thank You for Giving to Mission Gift Day

The Mission Gift Day appeal has now ended - we raised \$24,400 for our link missionaries this year - well above our target figure of \$20,000!

Thank you to all those who gave generously to the appeal to support and partner with our missionaries in the spread of the gospel. Every gift displays the partnership that St Stephen's has with them in the good works God has set out for them to do.



## Serving

We want every person to experience the intimacy, care and love of the church. One of the best ways for a follower of Jesus to experience this blessing is through serving with others. Unresponsive Christians do not grow, find joy or encouragement in their life. Why? God has ordered things so that serving each other is the best way to live a life marked by Jesus. Jesus was, after all, the Servant King. He came to serve not be served (Mark 10:45).

We would like to encourage you to join us in serving. Use the Connect Card to let us know you are interested and one of the staff will reach and make time to chat with you – giving you some options to consider. Don't miss the opportunity presented!



## Newish Teas



We are so blessed to have visitors to our church most weeks of the year. We want to help new people find their way to the centre of the church community.

We run Newish monthly to help you take the 1st small steps. Newish is a ½ hr morning tea (great food!) which introduces you to staff, a few regulars, and the basics of our church community with no ongoing commitment required.

Our next Newish runs on Sunday 24 September after the 9:45am Service and just before Night Church. Let us know you are interested through the Connect Card.

## Youth Camp

We have 7 kids coming to youth camp. We would love to make it to 10. Who can you invite?

- Who: Anyone from years 5-12
- What: Four days on a farm having fun playing games, and learning about Jesus
- When: 9am on 25th September to 4pm on 28th September

Youth camp will run at a farm in Oberon and the cost of \$215 includes all meals, transport, accommodation, and a camp shirt!

Get in touch with Nikita ([nikita.psaltis@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:nikita.psaltis@st-stephens.com.au)) for more information.

HALF PAST SIX INVITES YOU TO

# YOUTH CAMP

SEPTEMBER 25-28TH 2023

DROP OFF AT 9AM  
ST STEPHENS  
WILLOUGHBY

PICK UP AT 4PM  
ST STEPHENS  
WILLOUGHBY

FRIENDS. FUN. JESUS. ADVENTURE. CAMP.

For more information please contact Nikita Psaltis  
Email: [Nikita.psaltis@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:Nikita.psaltis@st-stephens.com.au)

All leaders are trained and abide by the safe ministry guidelines of the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney.

## What's Coming Up

20-22 September	Staff Retreat
21 September	Encounter for Seniors - 10am-1pm
22 September	Simply Christianity Course - Week 5
23 September	Weekly Prayer Meeting: Saturdays 8:30am in Chapel Hall
24 September	Newish Morning Tea
25-28 September	HPS Youth Camp

For more on what's happening this spring at St Stephen's, visit [st-stephens.com.au/spring](http://st-stephens.com.au/spring)

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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