

THE Psalms



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Wk 2

Sunday 24 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 11 (p. 541)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're glad to have you with us. We think there is no better place to be on a Sunday! If you are new or visiting, we would like to meet you. Please say hello to one of the staff and stay around for our time after the service. You can also use the Connect Card (accessible via the QR Code).



Today we continue our series looking at the songs of the Bible found in the Psalms. The Bible is such an interesting collection of books and writings. They vary in their style and in their focus. However, when you start to place each next to the other you see a consistence, a progression and wonderful revelation of the divine author.

The Bible is special, and we form the whole of our church life around it. We hope we can help you get to know the God of the Bible better.

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 [Newish Morning Tea](#) today 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

Our Father in heaven,
You are big and we are small.
Thank you that you are the King over everything.
We are sorry for not loving or listening to you.
We are sorry that we choose our way instead of yours.
Please help us live as friends with you
through Jesus Christ.
Help us to listen and love you by your Holy Spirit.
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

In the Lord I Take Refuge | Psalm 11

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. David's foundation and refuge (v. 1-3)

2. The LORD's righteousness and judgment (v. 4-7)
 - (a) An uncomfortable but necessary warning

 - (b) Jesus, the righteous who died for the unrighteous

3. Christ: our righteousness and our refuge

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. What types of songs/music genres have you gotten into in the past? What makes you like those songs?

Read Psalm 11

Split into two groups and draw a picture (as a group, or as individuals) of:

- A. Verses 1 to 3.
- B. Verses 4 to 7.

Explain your drawings to each other.

2. How does the picture of God in Psalm 11 challenge your own understanding of God? Does it? Discuss together.

One of the big questions that this Psalm raises for us is: **How can we, as unrighteous people, take refuge in a righteous God who vows to punish wickedness?**

Again, we have to read this psalm through the gospel (ie. Ask the question: how does Jesus sing this Psalm?)

3. Split up into groups and read the following passages in the Bible. Then come back and share with the group what the passage is about.

- Gen 18:20-33; 19:24-25
- Psalm 2 (with focus on verse 12)
- Matthew 11:20-30
- Romans 3:21-26

4. By God's Spirit, we are gifted the righteousness of Christ when we believe in Him (ie. In God's eyes, we are righteous, not in ourselves, but in Christ). How does this help us see God as our ultimate refuge?

5. What does it look like for you to keep taking refuge in the Lord Jesus?

Prayer Time

A. Thank God for providing us a refuge from destruction and judgment in His Son.

B. Pray that we will be able to point others to the refuge of Christ as we share the gospel.



GaP Group Reflection

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

- i. Share some ways you have experienced care from other members of the church or your GaP Group in the past term. Spend time giving thanks for those people.
- ii. Who can you (and your group) care for at present? Brainstorm some ways and then pray for the person.

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 10](#)

Tuesday - [Psalm 11](#)

Wednesday - [Psalm 12](#)

Thursday - [Psalm 13](#)

Friday - [Psalm 14](#)

Notices

Kids & Youth Programs on Break

During the school holidays our kids and youth programs take a break. Kids and Youth will stay in during the entire church service for the next two weeks. This is a great reminder to us all that young people are not just the church of the future but are members of the church today. It's a chance for young people to learn from seeing older Christians worshipping and an opportunity for adults to learn from the child like faith of our young people. Our usual programs resume on the following dates:



Playtime

Who: 0-5-year-olds

When: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 am

Starts back 10th October

Friday Kids

Who: Kindy - Year 4

When: Fridays, 3:30-5 pm

Starts back 20th October

Sunday Kids & Youth

Who: Kindy - Year 12

When: Sundays, 9:45am service

Starts back 15th October

Half Past Six Youth Group

Who: Years 5-12

When: Fridays, 6:30-8:30pm

Starts back 20th October

Conversations About the Good Life

We rarely talk and think about the things that really matter in life. Come to the pub for a drink and feed, and hear a panel of people from different professions and walks of life talk about our dreams for purpose, meaning and fulfilment in life –the good life.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT
THE GOOD life
AT WILLOUGHBY HOTEL
Tuesday 24 October, 7-9pm
st-stephens.com.au/SPRING

Newish Morning Tea



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.

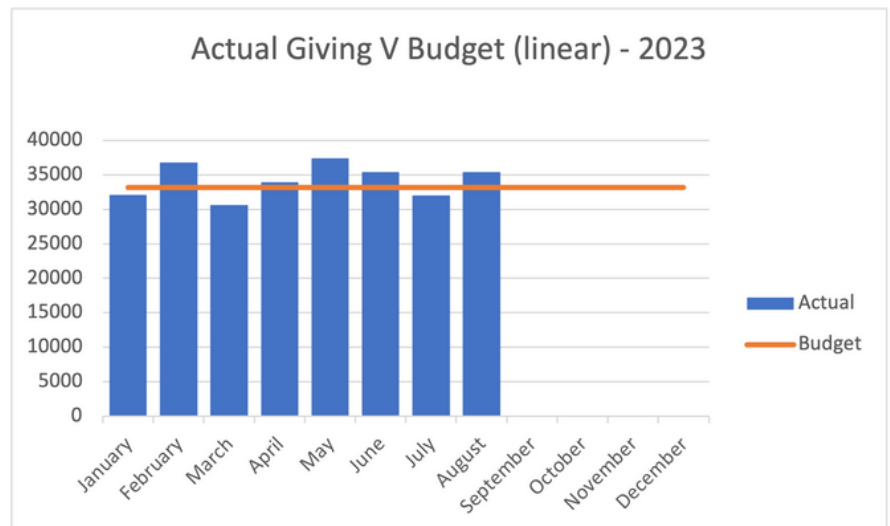
Join in today straight after the 9:45am service.

Financial update

Thank you to those who generously support the ministry of St Stephen's. Every part of our great life together is supported by the giving of St Stephen's members. If you are newer to our church community and would like to give to the ministry here, visit our Give page – st-stephens.com.au/give for details.

We give the money we have, to ensure others experience the warm welcome, the gospel hope and the gracious forgiveness of Christ. We are generous because God is and has been exceedingly generous to us. There are plenty of ministry ventures we would like to embark on and encourage you to prayerfully consider your giving.

Thanks to the Lord for the generosity of his people and for new members starting to give. We are now over \$8k ahead of our offertory budget for 2023 which will help reduce the expected deficit (budget deficit was \$48k) for 2023.



What's Coming Up

- 25-28 September HPS Youth Camp
- 7 October Weekly Prayer Meeting: Saturdays 8:30am in Chapel Hall
- 9 October Wardens' Meeting
- 9 October Parish Council
- 24 October Conversations about the Good Life at Willoughby Hotel

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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