

THE Psalms



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Wk 3

Sunday 1 October 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
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
Psalm 12 (p. 541)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Lord's Supper
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're glad to have you with us this morning! If you are visiting or new, we are especially glad to have you join us. We would love to hear from you – say 'hi' to a staff member or use the Connect Card (an electronic version is available through the QR code).



It's the start of daylight saving today. If you turned up and found most of the service is over – feel free to 'own' it. Most of us have made that kind of mistake! The start of Spring is a great time to return to good habits which died during winter. How about reading the Bible? Or perhaps it's not a habit you ever had? In which case, start now! In the booklet we have 5 short Bible studies for you to try this week – all based on Psalm 119. The Bible will change your life, it is powerful and wonderful.

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 29 October. 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 those not sharing in Lord's Supper

Participation in the Lord's Supper is for those who have professed faith in Jesus - it's a powerful and important symbol of the Christian message. As such we want to encourage those who are still exploring the Christian faith to feel free to remain in their seats when others move to the front to receive the Lord's Supper. During that time you may want to reflect on the sermon or Bible reading. You may also want to pray one of these prayers below.

Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me who you are. Give me an understanding of you that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayers adapted from Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York.

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

A Battle of Voices | Psalm 12

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. A world of lies

(a) The overt

(b) The hidden

2. A word of truth

(a) Purity

(b) Relying on it

3. A man of truth

A week of studies on the word of God.

“Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart.”

Psalm 119:1-2

“Holy Scripture contains all things necessary to salvation: so that whatever is not read in them, nor may be proved by them, is not to be required of any person, that it should be believed as an article of the Christian Faith, or be thought a requirement or necessary to salvation.”

Article 6 of the 39 Articles of the Anglican Church

The Bible is central to our lives and we want to encourage you to keep reading it on a daily basis to ground your faith in Jesus. These studies are for you to utilise this coming week.

Monday

Read Psalm 119:33-40

1. What does the Psalmist ask God to do?
 2. What things might distract the Psalmist from knowing God’s word?
 3. What reasons does the psalmist give for asking God to do the things they request?
 4. What links are there between the Psalmist’s life and God’s word?
 5. Which parts of the Psalmist’s prayer do you most resonate with as you try to read and take on board God’s word?
 6. Fashion a prayer to God using the part you referred to in Q.5.
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Tuesday

Read Psalm 119:65-72

1. What was the Psalmist like in their past life?
2. What does the Psalmist commit to do?
3. Why does the Psalmist want to know the word of God?
4. To what extent do you see yourself in the Psalmist’s self-description prior to hearing God’s message?
5. How has God’s word become precious to you?
6. Fashion a prayer around vv.65-66.

Wednesday

Read Psalm 119:89-96

1. How does the Psalmist describe God's word?
 2. What does the Psalmist commit to do? Why does he commit to do this?
 3. What does he want the Lord to do for him?
 4. Do you consider the word of God in the same way as the Psalmist?
 5. If not, what would change in the way you read it if this were so? If so, what impact has this had on your Bible reading?
 6. Fashion a prayer based on v.94.
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Thursday

Read Psalm 119:97-104

1. How does the Psalmist describe the word of God?
 2. What does the Psalmist do with the word of God? Does your use of God's word resemble this? How so?
 3. What are you tempted to turn to instead of the word of God for guidance?
 4. What impact does the word of God have on the Psalmist?
 5. Fashion a prayer of thanks based on vv.103-104.
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Friday

Read Psalm 119:105-112

1. How does the Psalmist describe God's word? What does each image imply about the word of God?
2. What good and difficult things have been caused by trusting God's word?
3. What does the Psalmist ask of God?
4. How does Jesus live out this Psalm?
5. Fashion a prayer of thanks to Jesus for the ways he lives out this Psalm.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT
THE GOOD life
AT WILLOUGHBY HOTEL

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*.

Tuesday 24 October 7-9pm

OUR PANEL FOR THE NIGHT



DR. JUSTINE TOH

Senior Research Fellow at the
Centre for Public Christianity



PRASHANTH COLOMBAGE

Senior Minister at St
Stephen's Willoughby



Scan the QR code or visit st-stephens.com.au/spring to register.

Notices

Summary of Simply Christianity

Last Friday was the final night of Simply Christianity. We looked at the resurrection of Jesus and what implications it has for us. Thank you for those who have been praying for Simply Christianity. We've had about 8 different guests come across at least one of the nights. Some have come to faith in Jesus and are now working out what it means for their life! Some have made steps in understanding the gospel and are curious to find out more. Please pray for each of our guests and for those who are still exploring.

Crafternoon

As a church we want young people to develop biblically shaped active faith. One of the ways this happens is by kids doing craft that reinforces the Bible lesson. We would love your help in preparing these craft activities. Having the craft prepared is helpful as it frees up the kid's leaders to spend more time preparing the biblical content of the lesson. We would really appreciate your help! You don't need any particular craft skills. If you can cut, glue or stick we can put you to good use! **Save the date for Tuesday 10th October 1-3pm in Hainsworth Hall.**

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 holidays. 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

What's Coming Up

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
29 October	Newish Morning Tea

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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