



A Church for the Future

1 Thessalonians | 15 Oct - 3 Dec



Wk 3

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
1 Thessalonians
2:17-3:13 (p. 1187)
- 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.

Sunday 29 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.

Welcome to St Stephen's! We're glad to have you with us today. We hope you find a warm welcome from our community. We would love to answer your questions, connect with you further and let you know about the opportunity for rich relationships.



Let us know you were here by saying hi to one of the team or filling in the Connect Card (hardcopy or QR Code). You can use the Card to also respond to various things raised in the service or this booklet.

Today is our Newish Morning Tea. Are you new or newish? Have you been to a Newish Morning Tea before. If not, we would love to host you after this service. It's a great chance to spend 30 mins meeting some other new and regular people, enjoy some great food and connect with the staff team. Just head over to the reception centre (near the carpark) after the service.

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 19 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,
We praise you for adopting us as your children
and making us heirs of eternal life.
In your mercy you have washed us from our sins
and made us clean in your sight.
Yet we still fail to love you as we should
and serve you as we ought.
Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,
in whom is our salvation.
Amen.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

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

Christian Love | 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. The Intensity of Christian Love

(a) The presence of love

(b) The depth of love

2. The Vulnerability of Christian Love

(a) 3 Drawbacks

(b) Why do I hold back?

3. The Hope of Christian Love

(a) The main actor

(b) The promised future

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. How & where have you experienced meaningful love from another? What characterises this?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

- A. How does Paul describe his separation from the Thessalonians?
- B. Who does he fear? What makes him anxious?
- C. What does he do as a result of it?
- D. What good news does he receive? What encourages him?
- E. In what ways is Paul vulnerable?
- F. Who does he thank and rely upon?

2. Who are you looking after in the faith? Who could you describe as your “glory & joy”? If there is no one, who could you care for in this way?

3. Why do you think prayer and physical proximity are so important to a vibrant expression of Christian love? How can you put this into practice in a meaningful way?

4. To what extent does the vulnerability displayed by Paul make you wary of loving and caring?

Re-read 1 Timothy 1:12-17

5. How can Christ's love strengthen our hearts?

6. How might the picture of standing with fellow believers before Jesus's throne strengthen your heart?

Prayer Time

- A. Is your love for Christians growing? Do you find yourself having a less judgmental heart?
- B. Have you been cold toward anyone? Discuss these and spend time in confession & prayer for this.



GaP Group Reflection

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

- i. What struck you about the Life Course that Gordon described?
- ii. Who would benefit from attending the course in your life? Pray for them and consider bringing them along for the remaining weeks.

Read the Bible with us!

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What are we encouraged to do?
3. Spend time praying for the character of God revealed here to be known deep within you and expressed truly by you.

Monday - [Romans 5:8](#)

Tuesday - [Colossians 3:12](#)

Wednesday - [1 John 4:9-11](#)

Thursday - [Ephesians 4:32](#)

Friday - [John 3:16](#)

Notices

Photos from Conversations about the Good Life



Life Course

One of the biggest claims Jesus made was that he came to give us “life and life to the full”.

LIFE is a course that looks at the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and what it means for us. It is perfect for anyone who is exploring faith and asking life’s big questions.

Join us at Willoughby Hotel as we look into the life Jesus offers. It’s a friendly, warm and honest environment for anyone at any stage of their journey of faith to come, listen and ask their questions. Each night includes a short presentation, a chance to discuss, ask questions and listen to others.

Cost: Free (One free drink for each guest on us!)



Prayer Morning

Join us on **Saturday morning 11 November, 9:30am to 10:30am, for a St Stephen's wide prayer morning.**

This is one for the whole family: we will begin together praising God in song, then Pippie will lead the kids off to pray together whilst the adults pray in the Chapel Hall. We will finish altogether in prayer and thanksgiving.

Let's not be lazy and reactive in prayer. Prayer is a frontline ministry of our church because we can do nothing without God and we are nothing without Him. We want this morning to renew us as a church family—to come before God in humility confessing our sins, asking for compassion and zeal for His Kingdom to grow, and a yearning to know God more and glimpse His glory in our hearts!

“Prayer is awe, intimacy, struggle—yet the way to reality. There is nothing more important, or harder, or richer, or more life-altering. There is absolutely nothing so great as prayer.”

— Timothy Keller

Gift Day

On 12 November our Parish Family celebrates its annual Gift Day across our services. It's a chance for us to generously support the life, ministry, and outreach of our church. Our Gift Day target is \$35k.

This year, we have managed to undertake several great tasks which are only possible through the generosity of God's people. Will you help fund the ministry that has happened this year? Will you help us extend it out to new people next year?

If we can exceed our target the wardens hope to do significant work on the church to make it more amenable in winter next year. Exceeding our gift day will also allow us to provide better training for our music teams, extend our invitation to a broader group of people and continue to invest in our Kids and Youth Ministry.

Gift Day is a wonderful chance to partner in gospel ministry. Visit our Give page for details or simply mark “Gift Day” in your transfer reference.

What's Coming Up

31 October	Life Course - Week 1
11 November	Prayer Morning & Morning Tea
12 November	Gift Day
19 November	Belonging Course
9 December	Carols on the Grass

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

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