

Big Questions

for our world

14 · 21 · 28 January 2024



Wk 3

Sunday 28 January 2024

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
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Kids & Youth Leaders Commissioning
- Song
- Prayer
- John 4:1-42 (p. 1065)
- 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.

Welcome to St Stephen's. Great to have you join us this morning. There is no better place to be on a Sunday than church! Would you take a moment to let us know how you found church? You can use the Connect Card in the booklet or via the QR Code. The Connect Card is also a great way to respond to what you read in this booklet.



This morning we commission and give thanks for those in our church who lead and teach our young people. Our 3rd Mission priority as a church is "Growing the Young in their devotion to God's word". We have a priority on helping young people know the Bible, trust its message and apply it to their life. At the heart of the Bible's message is Jesus. We cannot think of anyone better our young people to know, find comfort from and wholly rely upon.

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 25 February. 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** which runs on the 10th of March from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community.

Got a question? Fill out a **connect card** to chat with a staff member.

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.

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."

Exodus 34:6-7a

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

Are we getting happier? What Jesus says about fulfilment and joy | John 4:1-42

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Are we getting happier?
2. Our story is a quest for something deeper
3. Jesus interrupts your story to quench your thirst forever

Some content to discuss over a coffee:

1. What did you find interesting from the talk on Sunday? What did you disagree with or find unconvincing?
2. Do you think we are getting happier as a human race? Why or why not?
3. How much do you think it matters to you whether we are happier as a human race or not?
4. Do you think there's a difference between joy and happiness? What things make you joyful? What things make you happy?

5. Why do you think we long for something deeper to fill our hole for joy and long lasting happiness?

Some content to discuss over a coffee:

1. The Bible talks about all humans having "eternity put in our hearts" (Ecclesiastes 3:11) What do you think about this?
2. Have you met someone who has everything feeling unsatisfied with life? Why do you think they're unsatisfied?
3. In a story in the Bible (John 4), Jesus meets a woman at a well. In the conversation with her, he refers to the human longing for something deeper and more fulfilling as drinking water and being thirsty again and again. What do you make of this description?
4. Jesus then makes a big claim to this woman: that he can offer her living water to quench her thirst forever. What do you make of that claim?
5. Is Jesus and his claims/teachings appealing to you? Why or why not? What more would you be interested to learn about him and why he's so life-changing for many people (like the woman at the well)?

Notices

Serving

Our 4th mission priority is Celebrating Together for the Glory of Christ. We are a church that values our time together. We see it as a shadow of the great and final picture in the Bible when God will gather all his people from all ages, cultures and languages together. Unlike a world built on individualism, the church is a community of grace and encouragement. We seek to build people up and point them to Christ. We want each other to be more like Jesus!



One of the primary ways we express our life together is in serving each other. We value service. As the year kicks off you have the opportunity to join a Sunday Service team. Service teams are great ways to bless others, encourage fellow team members and grow spiritually. Check out the short description of various Sunday Service ministries and consider signing up to one.

Lunar New Year Banquet & Letterbox Drop

Our annual Lunar New Year Banquet is happening again on Tuesday night 20 February from 7pm to 9:30pm. This is open for everyone to come enjoy a 3-course meal with drinks, connect with others and to open up a conversation about life, faith and Jesus. We'd love to see your friends, neighbours, family members, colleagues, classmates come along!

During the night, we'll enjoy a mix of Chinese, Korean and South-East Asian food (with matching drinks). The night will also include the first installment of the world-renowned Alpha course: a short video which seeks to allow discussion and questions about life and faith.

There are flyers up the back of the church for you to give to your friends. We'd also appreciate your help in the letterbox drop—simply grab a bundle of flyers with a map of where they need to go. If you'd also like to help out at the event, please contact Gordon.



Notices

Kids and Youth programs are back

At St Stephen's we value young people and desire to see them grow in their devotion to God's word. We therefore run several different programs which are starting back soon. We hope all our regular St Stephen's kids to be a part of these programs and to bring their friends to. Please pray as they start back for many people to come.



Friday Kids

2nd Feb

K-5

3:30-5:30pm

This term we are looking at Who Jesus is

Half Past Six

2nd Feb

6-9

6:30-8:15pm

This term we are looking at
A Dozen disappointing disciples

Sunday Kids

4th Feb

0-12

During 9:45

Gumnuts is doing an introduction to the Bible and our primary groups are looking at the book of Matthew



Sunday Youth

4th Feb

Yr 6-9 during 9:45

Yr 9-12 4:15-5:30pm

This term they are looking at the Book of Matthew



Playtime

6th Feb

0-5 Yr olds and their carers

What's Coming Up

29 January	Crafternoon
4 February	Vision Sunday
5-9 February	Week of Prayer
6 February	SRE Conference
11 February	GaP Group Leaders Meeting

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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