



A New King

The life of Jesus
according to Matthew's Gospel

 St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Wk 7

Sunday 17 March 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
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading: Matthew 6:19-34 (p. 971)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're so glad to have you with us today. We think there is no better place to be on a Sunday. We would love to hear how you found church – would you take a moment to fill in the Connect Card or the QR Code form? You can also use both to respond to anything in the booklet.



Today we continue to explore the teaching of Jesus in his famous Sermon on the Mount. His most famous teaching is more than wisdom. It challenges the things we assume and asks us to have a new perspective on life because of following him.

Jesus's teaching is uncomfortable. However, it is our conviction that it is also life giving! He knows what we need better than we do. He is willing to meet our need even when it costs him all he has. This means he is utterly trustworthy.

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 March. 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 2nd of June from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our [GaP Groups](#), serving and deeper connection with the community. Or if you'd like to learn more sooner, you may also like to arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

Got a question? Fill out a [connect card](#) to chat with a staff member.

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.

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

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
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

The Peace of the Kingdom | Matthew 6:19-34

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. Everything is impermanent

2. Striving makes you anxious

3. There is something better

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. Are you a worrier? Why do you answer this way?

Read Matthew 6:19-34

Getting your head around the passage:

Use as many questions as you need to ensure you understand the passage's contents.

- A. What lasts and what doesn't last according to Jesus?
- B. Who are the two masters competing for our allegiance?
- C. What does the Father do for us?
- D. What reminds us of the Father's character?
- E. What should we prioritise?
- F. What are we to do with worry according to Jesus?

2. What is Jesus asking us to avoid doing with our material possessions?

3. Why is Jesus's teaching in v.24 and generally about material wealth challenging to us?

4. What aspects of God's character are given as a comfort to us? What are some of the ways God has 'fed and clothed you' (vv. 26 & 30) over your life?

5. What is the material object you find hardest to give away? Why do you think that is? What aspect of God's character are you prone to forget in that moment?

Read Romans 8:31-39

6. What is so good about God's love offered in Christ? How might this help us to deal with our fears and deal with our earthly treasures?

Prayer Time

Split into smaller groups:

1. Are you seeing new ways to better steward your talents, gifts, relationships, wealth, and other assets God has given you? Share these and pray for wisdom in these things.



GaP Group Reflection

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

i. Who is a friend you could bring along to Easter? Spend some time praying for them with each other.

Read the Bible with us!

Read [Psalm 91](#) this week each day.

1. Pick one aspect of God's character which the Psalmist reminds you of. Does Jesus's life and ministry reinforce this?
 2. How have you been tempted to forget this?
 3. What can you do to remind yourself of this characteristic?
- Pray that God might encourage and comfort you with his character today.

Notices

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday 25 March at 7:30pm** in the Church Building.

The AGM is an opportunity to hear reports on the past year of ministry, the state of our church's finances, the ongoing plans for redevelopment of the site and the year ahead for our church. The AGM is also the chance to vote in office bearers (Parish Councillors, Wardens, Nominators) for the year ahead.

The meeting is an encouraging hour of gathering and recommitting to the community God is building here at St Stephen's.

To vote in the AGM you need to be a baptised member of the Anglican Church, however all are welcome to attend the meeting.

We hope we will see many of our newer members attend.

Emu Music Conference

On Saturday, our music team attended the Word in Song conference run by Emu Music.

We were encouraged, along with brothers and sisters from many other churches, about the great gift of music and song when we gather together as God's people each week. The team was equipped both practically and theologically. We also enjoyed spending time together as a team.

We're excited and encouraged to serve our church in leading us to sing praises to God.



Notices

Friday Kids BBQ Friday 22nd March

This week after our usual Friday Kids program we are having a sausage sizzle dinner for those who attend Friday Kids and their families. Last year we started Friday kids and we have had a number of kids come who do not attend church on Sunday.

This BBQ is a chance to connect with their families. We hope as families mingle and get to know each other it will provide opportunities to bring them to Easter. Please pray for the evening that many people will come!

Time: 5pm (After Friday Kids) - 6pm
Who: Kids in Kindy - year 5 and their family members
Where: St Stephen's Willoughby



Alpha

Alpha runs each Tuesday for anyone who is interested in exploring life, meaning and the Christian faith.

We eat dinner together, watch a short video and chat. It's a great space to ask any questions, meet others and think about Jesus and what he offers.



What's Coming Up

21 March	Encounter for Seniors
21 March	Bush Church Aid Connect Night
22 March	Friday Kids with BBQ
25 March	AGM
28 March	Easter Walkthrough

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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