

Did you know...

> God died

> Man **rose**



Sunday 31 March 2024

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Song
- Retelling of Easter Story
- Bible Reading: Matthew 9:18-26 (page 974) & Romans 6:5-11 (page 1131)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Lord's Supper
- 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.

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 Church. Christ is Risen! The extraordinary news of the gospel rings out with clarity today. Death, the last great enemy has been overcome and hope is offered to all who would have it. We're so glad you're here to celebrate with us. Please use the QR Code to let us know how you found the service and to respond to anything you read in this booklet.



The Bible make the audacious claim that after 3 days in a tomb, Jesus rose physically from the dead. It's a claim supported by significant historical evidence: an empty tomb, over 500 eyewitnesses, radically transformed lives of followers and a 'resurrection' dent in history.

Maybe you came today because its your tradition to visit each Easter. We're glad to host you. We hope it might become far more than that. Belief in the resurrection can transform your eternity.

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 26 May. 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.

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

Better than we hope for - Matthew 9:18-26 & Romans 6:5-11

Preacher: Prash Colombage

1. A need we do not see
2. A power beyond belief
3. An offer worth taking up

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. What 'thoughts' do you go to when you feel overwhelmed or anxious?

Read Romans 6:5-11

Getting your head around the passage:

Choose as many of these questions as you need to get your head around the passage.

- A. What are Paul's readers 'united' to in this passage?
- B. What is the result of that union?
- C. What impact does it have on sin?
- D. What implications does it have for the future?
- E. What invitation is made to us as readers in v.11?

"Christianity is rightly seen as a life-changing experience, but it will transform you only if you accept as fact certain events occurred in history."

- Tim Keller

2. Why is the historical resurrection of Jesus necessary for Christian hope?

3. What 'proofs' are there for the historicity of the resurrection:

John 20:1-2	
1 Cor 15:3-8	
Luke 24:36ff & John 20:19,26.	
1 Tim 1:13	

4. What does it mean to 'die with Christ'? Why might we be unwilling to 'die with Christ'?

Read Matthew 9:18-26

5. When we feel incapable of doing what is needed, what about the gospel does the little girl in this account remind us?
6. How can taking Jesus's hand this week give us confidence to live for God (Rom 6:10)?

Prayer Time

1. Are you tempted to rely on your strength to find hope in an anxious time? Are you tempted to minimise or underplay the seriousness of death? Are you overwhelmed by death?
2. Pray God might give you life transforming hope through a deeper faith and trust in the resurrection.

Read the Bible with us!

1. What impact should the resurrection have on you?
2. Why is this not always the case?
3. Ask God to build your confidence in the resurrection and give you hope.

Monday - [1 Peter 1:3-5](#)

Tuesday - [1 Corinthians 15:50-58](#)

Wednesday - [Romans 6:5-11](#)

Thursday - [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)

Friday - [John 11:25-26](#)

Notices

Coffee and Bible?

Have you been struck by Jesus? We'd love to explore the Christian faith more with you and shout you a coffee!



Prashanth Colombage
Senior Minister
E: prash@st-stephens.com.au

Prash is the Senior Minister of St Stephen's. He became a Christian in 1st year university after a friend gave him a book about Jesus. It changed his life. He realised Jesus was the Lord of the universe and offering to be his friend. He'd love to talk more about Jesus with anyone who is keen.



Gordon Luk
Outreach & Sunday Services
E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au

Gordon thought he knew what Christianity was all about, going to a Christian school and having Christian parents. But when his friend showed him what the Bible was saying about Jesus (over a coffee), he realised he was wrong! After discovering what the Bible really said for himself, he came to know and trust Jesus.



Liz Cooper
Member
E: office@st-stephens.com.au

Liz came to St Stephen's trying to figure out if Christianity was true. If God really had revealed himself in Jesus (as claimed), then it was worth properly investigating. This led her to ask questions and explore the Bible with others, before coming to see that God was really worth her full love and commitment.



Jo Deng
Member
E: office@st-stephens.com.au

Jo did not grow up in a Christian home but met some Christian friends at high school. She became curious about Christianity but started investigating what the Bible said during university.

Notices

Kids and Youth programs at St Stephen's

At St Stephen's we love young people and want to help them explore the big questions of life in a fun and engaging environment.

📍 Playtime, Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 AM, is for 0-5-year-olds and their caregivers. There are fun activities for kids and meaningful connections for adults.

🎉 Friday Kids for Kindy to Year 5, taking place from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, promises an afternoon of fun-filled activities as kids learn about Jesus. There is a walking bus service provided from Willoughby Public School.

🌟 Half Past Six Youth Group, tailored for Year 6-9 students, meets Fridays from 6:30 to 8:15 PM, offering a welcoming space for exploring faith and making friends.

For more information about the groups head to st-stephens.com.au/kidsandyouth



Newish

Each month we take a moment to welcome new people to our church. Church is a great place to be, used by God to transform people with the gospel. However, we know it can be hard to join a new church community without any help. Newish Morning Tea is run straight after church on Sunday 26 May. It includes a great morning tea, a chance to hear from the staff team, ask questions and meet a few others who call St Stephen's home. If you are keen to hear more about our church please pop it in your diary. We will reach out to you too.

What's Coming Up

12 April	Friday Kids Leaders Meeting
18 April	Encounter for Seniors
19-21 April	KYCK Conference
29 April	Crafternoon (prepare craft for Sunday Kids)
26 May	Newish Morning Tea

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



Prashanth Colombage
Senior Minister

E: prash@st-stephens.com.au
M: [0432 314 466](tel:0432314466)



Gordon Luk
Outreach & Sunday Services

E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au



Pippie Krebs
Kids & Youth Minister

E: pippie@st-stephens.com.au



Jill Chilton
Membership Minister

E: jill@st-stephens.com.au



Zonel Harrison
On-site Administrator

E: office@st-stephens.com.au



Bec Simmons
Off-site Administrator

E: office@st-stephens.com.au