



A New King

The life of Jesus
according to Matthew's Gospel

 St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Wk10

Sunday 7 April 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 8:5-13 (page 972)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're glad you could join us today. We hope you find a warm welcome from our regular church family. Please let us know how you found the service. You can use the QR code to respond to anything you find in the booklet or throughout the service.



The church is a community that contains all sorts of people. It draws people from different backgrounds, different cultures and different parts of society. Why? At the heart of the church is the message and offer of the Lord Jesus – a gracious calling to forgiveness, healing and hope. The message and the hope are offered to all.

As a local church, our hope is we might reflect the cultural, ethnic and generational diversity of our local area. We want all people to hear the good news of Jesus and find the hope he offers. Can we help you with this?

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.

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

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We confess that we have wandered from your way:
we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit
that we may live as disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour.
Amen

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

1 Peter 3:18

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

Faith and the Kingdom | Matthew 8:5-13

Preacher: Gordon Luk

Seven Surprises:

Surprise #1 – A centurion approaches Jesus (v. 5).

Surprise #2 – The centurion addresses him as “Lord” (v. 6, 8).

Surprise #3 – The centurion begs for his servant-boy (v. 6).

Surprise #4 – Jesus offers to go (v. 7).

Surprise #5 – The centurion won’t let him (v. 8-9).

Surprise #6 – Jesus is amazed (v. 10).

Surprise #7 – The Kingdom is made up of people who trust in Jesus as Lord and God, not those with religious nor ethnic pedigree (v. 11-12).

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. Do you think “faith” is a helpful word or a confusing word? Discuss/debate.

Read Matthew 8:5-13

Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. Who approaches Jesus and how does he address him?
- B. What is his request to Jesus?
- C. Explain in your own words, what the centurion is saying to Jesus in verses 8 to 9.
- D. What is Jesus’s reaction?
- E. What challenge is Jesus giving to his Jewish followers in verse 11 to 12?
- F. What does verse 13 show us about Jesus?

2. Why do you think Jesus is amazed in verse 10? Do you think what our world thinks is “faith” would amaze him?
3. There are two big errors and misunderstandings our world has when it comes to “faith in Jesus”. What is the error of each in light of our passage?
 - “Faith” is something that only belongs to a ‘religious-type’ person: “people of faith”.
 - Believing in Jesus just means having a relationship with Him as my friend, helper, saviour.
4. Which error are you more likely to fall into? Discuss why.

“The efficacy of faith is dependent not on the subject who expresses faith, but on the object of faith. It doesn’t matter how much or how little faith you have. It only matters in whom you place your faith...It’s not dependent on us. Our faith can wax and wane throughout our life. Whether our faith can save us is dependent on who we put our faith in.”

— Alan Shlemon

5. In light of this quote and in light of the gospel, what is the solution for us if we are struggling in our faith?

6. How can we practically look to Jesus and not others this coming week?

Prayer Time

Split up into smaller groups to pray:

1. Are there things in life that teaching us are grow in our faith?
2. Pray for each other to look to Jesus in faith and to submit to His loving Lordship.

Read the Bible with us!

1. What does this show us about Jesus?
2. What does this add to our picture of the Kingdom of Heaven?

Monday - [Matthew 8:1-3](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 8:14-22](#)

Wednesday - [Matthew 8:23-34](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 9:1-8](#)

Friday - [Matthew 9:9-13](#)

Notices

AGM Update

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 25 March. Thank you to those who could attend. We heard reports from Prash, the Wardens and our Treasurer. We spent time giving thanks to God for his great provision over the past year. We also elected new office bearers for 2024.

Our Office Bearers were: [Parish Council] Angela Taradilis, Harriet Wintle, Adam Barnes, Garth Douglass, Lois Feros, Fred Chilton, Garley So, & Cheryl Yeung. [Wardens] Allan Saxby, Rob Cooper & Nina Shou. [Nominators] Jill Chilton, Stephen Buckley, Brian Spiller, Matt Chase & Kim Barnes.



KYCK Conference

Registrations will be open soon for KYCK 2024. We are going for KYCK #2 from 19-21 April.



Notices

Conversations about Hope

We rarely have time to 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 hope.



 St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT
HOPE
AT WILLOUGHBY HOTEL

THURSDAY 23 MAY
7 - 9 PM

Penshurst Room (upstairs), Willoughby Hotel
315 Penshurst Rd

ST-STEPHENS.COM.AU/AUTUMN

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



Amanda Hunter
Off-site Administrator

E: office@st-stephens.com.au