



GLORIOUS  
COMPLEX  
DIVINE  
1 Corinthians

Wk 2

Sunday 8 September 2024

Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.

## TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
1 Cor 1:18-2:5  
(p. 1142)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.  
BSB: 062 272  
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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 today. We hope you find a warm welcome, challenging teaching, joyful worship and an invitation to the heart of this community. We love having new people join us!



Would you take a moment during the day to fill in the Connect Card and let us know you were here? You can use the card to respond to notices, things that happen in the service or ask for prayer.

The local church is the hope of the world. Yet most people know little about it and as a result find it uninspiring. That's a shame. The gospel is extraordinary news. It can humble us – show us our true selves. At the same time, it will lift us up and give us joy and gratitude. The gospel is not just news, it is powerful news of God's work in the world. We hope you are struck by it today.

### 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 22 September. 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 today 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 at another time, you can arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

# 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

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:5-6

## 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 Impact of the Gospel on the Church | 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. An unappealing message

2. An unexpected community

3. An undeserved power

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. How have you witnessed the local church confound societal expectations?

## Read 1 Cor 1:18-2:5

### Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. What two groups are described in vv.18-25? How are they differentiated?
- B. How is God viewed in comparison to the world?
- C. How is the church described in vv.26-31?
- D. What words/phrases does Paul use to describe his ministry in 2:1-5?
- E. What does Paul rely upon?

“God has made himself unknown to and unknowable by human wisdom” - David Prior

“The cross is hardly a message for the ambitious” - H.A. Stansbury

2. Consider these summaries of Paul’s teaching. Assuming they are accurate summaries, what do you think people would find unappealing about them?

3. Why can you be reluctant to humble yourself? How can we use good works and virtues to avoid the humble position Paul calls us to adopt for ourselves?

4. The gospel is summarised in v.30. What is so appealing about the gospel if we have ears to hear it? How does it address some of the fears and reluctance raised in the previous question?

5. What great attributes will we see in a church shaped by a gospel which cancels out boasting (v.31)?

## Prayer Time

1. Spend time sharing the way selfish ambition, self-esteem (or lack thereof) and other things hinder your ability to humble yourself.
2. Give thanks for God's mercy in calling you in spite of your failings. Ask him to encourage you with his gracious character this week.

## Read the Bible with us!

1. What does each reading remind us about ourselves?
2. How does God treat us?
3. Pray in response.

Monday - [Colossians 3:12](#)

Tuesday - [James 4:10](#)

Wednesday - [1 Peter 5:5](#)

Thursday - [2 Chronicles 7:14](#)

Friday - [Proverbs 15:33](#)

# Notices

## Gospel and Prayer Groups

GaP Groups are the heart of pastoral care and spiritual nurture in our church. Do you want to grow in love for God, love for others and knowledge of God's love for you? You really need to be in a GaP Group.

Our groups share time together, the burdens of life, the encouragements of the gospel and pray for each other. To express interest in a group contact Prash (details on the back of the bulletin or via the Connect Card.)



## MTS Info Session | 29 September

MTS (Ministry Training Strategy) is a great way to explore the viability of full-time church ministry, invest in your Spiritual Growth and equip yourself to be a super valuable member of God's mission in the world.

Nikita is currently undertaking the MTS program. MTS is open to all ages and stages of life.

We are holding an information session on Sunday 29 September at 3-4:30pm for those who are interested in the program. You can register your interest in the info session by completing the form via the QR code.



# Notices

## Friday Kids Update

We have a beautiful story to share from our Friday Kids program!

A girl in Year 4, who was invited during Scripture class, has been coming along for three weeks in a row. Though she doesn't know much about Jesus yet, each week she learns more about who He is and what He has done for us. It's amazing to see her curiosity and joy grow! This is what Friday Kids is all about—bringing friends to faith.

Would you consider joining our team to help more kids experience God's love? Your involvement could make all the difference!



## Finances

Thank you to those who generously support the ministry of our church through financial giving.

Did you know that the generosity of our church has meant we can run our well resourced Playtime Ministry for the local community?

Giving to church blesses more than just our church family.

If you would like to set up regular giving visit our website for more details - [st-stephens.com.au/give](http://st-stephens.com.au/give).



# What's Coming Up

- 9 September Alpha Course (Mondays)
- 15 September Music Training
- 16 Sept - 21 Oct Come and See (Mondays)
- 29 September MTS Info Session
- 8-11 October HPS Youth Camp

For more on what's happening this spring at St Stephen's, visit [st-stephens.com.au/spring](http://st-stephens.com.au/spring)

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



**Prashanth Colombage**  
Senior Minister  
M: 0432 314 466  
E: [prash@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:prash@st-stephens.com.au)



**Gordon Luk**  
Outreach & Sunday Services  
E: [gordon@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:gordon@st-stephens.com.au)



**Pippie Krebs**  
Kids & Youth Minister  
E: [pippie@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au)



**Jill Chilton**  
Membership Minister  
E: [jill@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:jill@st-stephens.com.au)



**Bec Simmons**  
Off-site Administrator  
E: [office@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:office@st-stephens.com.au)