

 Wk 5

Sunday 29 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 5:1-13,
6:12-20
(p. 1145)
- Sermon
- Song
- Announcements
- Prayers
- 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! If you are new or visiting today we are so glad to welcome you.

This is the best place to be on a Sunday! We hope you find a warm welcome, comfort for the week ahead and a deeper love for God.

Please use the Connect Card to let us know

how you found church, respond to anything you heard upfront or read in this booklet or simply to share a prayer point.



With the warmth of spring comes new energy and hope. Like the fields and flowers which bring forth new things – we hope life will also bring forth new things in our daily existence.

The good news of the Bible is more than wishful thinking. It offers a certain hope of the future – the resurrection of the dead. It offers this based on what Jesus has done – died for us. It is guaranteed by the ministry of the Holy Spirit – dwelling in us.

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 20 October. 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 10 November 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

Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have gone our own way,
and rejected your will for our lives.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you,
and to please you in every way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

An Authentic Church | 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 & 6:12-20

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. The Most Significant Issue

2. The Responsible People

3. The Gospel Solution

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. Do you have blind spots in your life - areas where you sometimes underestimate your failings? How do these eventually get revealed?

Read 1 Corinthians 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 are the Corinthian's rebuked for?
- B. What should they do?
- C. Why should they do this?
- D. How are they to relate to the world around them?
- E. What sins are identified in this passage?

2. What social and internal pressures act upon us to minimise sin within us personally and the sin taking place within our church community?

3. Paul writes in 6:12, " 'I have the right to do anything,' you say - but not everything is beneficial".

(a) Do you see a similar attitude in society? In your own heart?

(b) Why can this hinder your responsibility to the spiritual welfare of others?

4. How can your group move from 'comprehension' (which is good) to 'conviction' (which is even better)? What can you do to nurture that?

5. Consider what Jesus has done (5:8), what the Holy Spirit is doing (6:19) and what the Father promises to do (6:14). How can this move you from conviction of sin to consolation/comfort?

6. Share how your group time has shaped your various blind spots and how God has been slowly changing and shaping you.

Prayer Time

1. How does the Holy Spirit bear witness with your spirit that you are God's child? Ask God to make this witness more and more clear to you.
2. Are you conscious of growing spiritual light within, revealing more of the purity of the law, the holiness of God, the evil of sin, and the preciousness of faith in Christ? Ask God to continue this work.

Read the Bible with us!

1. How should we live?
2. Why should we live this way?
3. Where do you need this to take effect today. Ask God to help you.

Monday - [Leviticus 20:26](#)

Tuesday - [1 Thessalonians 4:7](#)

Wednesday - [1 Peter 1:15-17](#)

Thursday - [1 Corinthians 5:7](#)

Friday - [Colossians 3:1-3](#)

Notices

Staff Retreat

Our staff team travelled to the Central Coast to plan, prepare and pray for our church's ministry and life in 2025. We reflected on the many blessings our church has experienced from God's hand. We consider how we could encourage our church family to grow more like Christ, reach more of our family, friends and neighbours with the gospel and nurture the next generation. Please pray for our church as we look to God's work in 2025.



Gospel and Prayer Groups



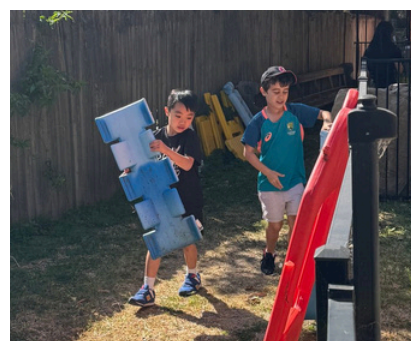
Gap Groups are the best place to grow spiritually and to serve others in their spiritual growth. If you are not part of a Gospel and Prayer Group please consider joining one. We would love to welcome you into a smaller community that reads the Bible, prays for each other and cares for each other in life. Use the Connect Card or speak to Prash if you are interested.

Half Past Six Camp | 8-11 October

HPS Youth Camp is less than 2 weeks away! Last year we had 7 youth attend camp, and it was a great week spent learning from the bible, having fun and playing games. This year we have been praying that God would send 12 youth. God has answered this prayer, and we have 13 youth coming! Praise God and thank you for your prayers.

Working Bee

Thanks to those who helped out last weekend keeping our grounds and church facilities clean and in good repair. The next Working Bee will be 30th November just in time for Carols and the Christmas season. Mark it in your diaries!

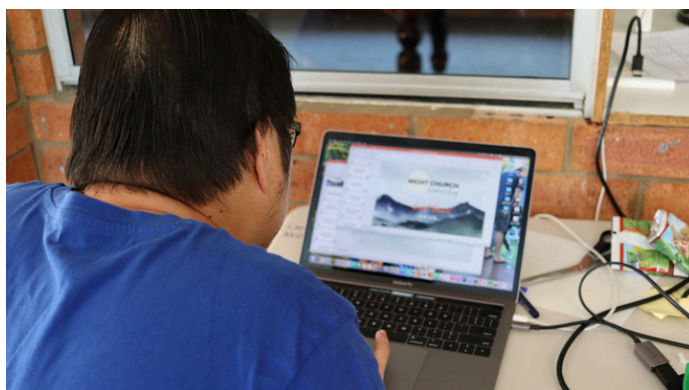


Notices

Ministry Fair | 20 October

‘Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.’ 1 Corinthians 12:7

Each member of Christ has been given gifts by the Spirit to be used to serve others. It can be daunting with already busy schedules and limited capacity to think about adding another thing to your plate. But it’s amazing what a joy and blessing it is to use your gifts for the good of others. The Ministry Fair is your chance to explore how you can use them to serve Jesus in 2025.



What's Coming Up

- 30 Sept - 21 Oct Come and See (Mondays)
- 29 September MTS Info Session
- 8-11 October HPS Youth Camp
- 14 October Crafternoon
- 20 October Vision Sunday

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

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