



GLORIOUS
COMPLEX
DIVINE
1 Corinthians

Wk 16

Sunday 22 December 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 15:50-58
(p. 1155)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we're reminded of the incredible truth that God is with us. His love entered our world through His Son, bringing hope and new life. This is the heart of our vision: we long to be made **beautiful, diverse, and large** by the gracious work of Christ.



1 Corinthians 15:58 urges us to “stand firm, let nothing move you, always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” This Christmas, let's stand firm in sharing the hope we have in Jesus. Who could you invite to hear this life-changing message?

After the service, we'd love for you to stay, connect, and enjoy the beauty of Christian community. If you're new or have a prayer request, please use the Connect Card via the QR code—we'd love to hear from you!

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 16 February. 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 23 February 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.

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

Our Father in heaven,
You are big and we are small.
Thank you that you are the King over everything.
We are sorry for not loving or listening to you.
We are sorry that we choose our way instead of yours.
Please help us live as friends with you
through Jesus Christ.
Help us to listen and love you by your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10

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

Victory Over Death | 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Preacher: Damien Clark

1. Thinking about death

2. Death and life

3. Christ is victorious over death

4. The resurrection teaches us how to live now

Bible Study

1. What excites you most about Christmas? How might it be an opportunity to share the hope of Jesus with others?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Paul writes to the Corinthians about the hope of resurrection and the victory we have in Christ. Through Jesus, death is defeated, and eternal life is promised to all who trust in Him. This passage encourages believers to live with purpose, knowing that their efforts to serve the Lord are never in vain.

2. What does Paul say about the transformation that will happen at the resurrection (vv. 50-54)?

3. How does Christ's victory over death (vv. 55-57) give us confidence to share the gospel?

4. Verse 58 calls us to be "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." What might this look like practically during the Christmas season?

5. How does the assurance that "your labor in the Lord is not in vain" encourage you to step out in faith?

6. Christmas often softens hearts to spiritual conversations. What opportunities do you see to invite your friends and neighbours to hear about Jesus?

7. How can you lovingly and prayerfully approach these conversations?

8. Christmas reminds us that Jesus came to bring life and light to a world in darkness. How does the reality of the resurrection motivate you to invite others to experience this hope?

Prayer and Act

1. Spend time praying for specific friends, neighbours, or family members. Ask God to open their hearts to His message this Christmas.

2. Think about how you can extend an invitation to St Stephen's Christmas services. What barriers might stop you, and how can you overcome them?

3. Thank God for the victory we have in Jesus and the hope of resurrection. Pray for boldness to share this good news, trusting that your efforts are not in vain. Ask God to work through St Stephen's Christmas services to bring many to know Him.

Notices

Christmas

We have 3 great, different styles of service to celebrate Christmas this year. This means there is a service style for your friends, neighbours and family. Who can you bring along? We would love to meet them and introduce them to Jesus.

- **4pm on Christmas Eve:** ideal for younger families. Service contains easy to understand content, lots of energy and audience participation, music and a sausage sizzle after.
- **10pm on Christmas Eve:** start with a champagne supper at 10pm and then stay for the Candlelight Carols Service at 11pm. Great for young adults, retirees and those looking for reflection time during the busyness of Christmas.
- **9am on Christmas Day:** perfect for all ages who want to start Christmas Day with church. Very similar to our usual Sunday Service.



Morning Church Big Day Out - 22 March 2025

On Saturday 22 March 2025 our Morning Service will have our first ever Big Day Out Event! It will be a great opportunity to spend quality time together, be encouraged from the Bible, eat great food and establish deep spiritual roots for the year.

Simon Manchester will be our guest speaker.

Please save the date, further details will come in the New Year.



Notices

Staff Changes for 2025

In 2025, following recommendations from our church consultation with Reach Australia and reflection by the staff team & key leadership, we will be changing some staff responsibilities.

1. 🗨️ Gordon will move from overseeing Sunday Services to having responsibility for our GaP Groups and general Spiritual Maturity of members. He will continue to oversee our outreach/evangelism ministries (e.g. Bring Courses and Events).
2. 🏠 Prash will take over the Sunday Services ministry.
3. 🧑🎓 Our MTS Apprentices (Nikita and Emlyn, who joins us in 2025) will take a greater role in Friday Kids and Youth Ministries so that Pippie can spend extra time helping encourage and grow our church in serving through support and training of leaders. Pippie will continue to oversee kids and youth ministry while delegating some of the weekly management to Nikita and Emlyn.

Jill will continue to oversee our ministry of integration across the church to ensure we keep improving in welcoming new people.

In addition, Prash will take on the role of Congregational Pastor for our Morning Service while Gordon will take on the role of Congregational Pastor for Night Church.

All staff will attend both services but recent growth in service attendance means we need to be more deliberate in our oversight. If you have questions please reach out to the staff team.



What's Coming Up

- 24 December Christmas Eve Services
- 25 December Christmas Day Service
- 12 January Night Church Birthday Relaunch
- 26 - 30 January LiT Camp
- 28 January Crafternoon

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



Prashanth Colombage
Senior Minister
M: 0432 314 466
E: prash@st-stephens.com.au



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



Bec Simmons
Off-site Administrator
E: office@st-stephens.com.au