

What is God doing in the world?

Wk 2

Sunday 12 January 2025

Our 9:30am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Reading: Acts 2 (p. 1091)
- Sermon
- Lord's Supper
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
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If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

In Acts 2, we see a picture of a vibrant, growing church—beautiful in its acts of service and care, diverse in its people groups, and large in its impact. It was the work of God's Spirit, drawing people from all walks of life into the joy and hope found in Jesus Christ.



Today, we gather as part of that same story, welcoming you into a community being transformed by His grace.

Whether you're a young family navigating life or enjoying the wisdom of later years, you are deeply valued here. Our prayer is that you encounter the beauty of Christ, the richness of His love, and the joy of belonging to His people.

As you leave, consider sharing what you've experienced. Feel free to respond to us via the QR code or Connect Card. Tell your kids, your neighbors, or a friend who wasn't here today. Let's be a church that looks to bring friends to the life-changing hope of Jesus. Together, we reflect His glory to the world!

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.

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

What is God doing in the World | Acts 2

Preacher: Gordon Luk

Do we still need the church?

Acts 2 and the start of the church: What God did in the world to start the church?

1. The difference the Holy Spirit makes (v. 1-21)

2. Witnessing to the risen and ascended Son (v. 22-41)

3. The church as a result of a movement of God

Our part in this movement

Personal Reflection Study

When you think about the idea of God saving people, what excites you, and what challenges you?

Read Acts 2

Take time to read through the chapter carefully. If possible, read it twice to ensure you see the big picture and the details.

1. What extraordinary event happens at the beginning of Acts 2, and how do the people react (verses 1-13)?
2. In Peter's sermon (verses 14-41), how does he explain the significance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?
3. What role does Scripture play in Peter's explanation of what is happening (e.g., Joel 2, Psalm 16)?
4. How do the people respond to Peter's message, and what does Peter call them to do (verses 37-41)?
5. Describe the community life of the new believers as a result of this salvation (verses 42-47). What stands out to you about their priorities?

Personal Reflection Study

6. What fears or anxieties do you have about sharing the gospel with others?

7. Are there particular situations where you feel reluctant to speak about Jesus? Why do you think that is?

8. Reflect on Peter's boldness. How does his transformation from denying Jesus to proclaiming Him inspire or challenge you?

9. Acts 2 shows how God works through the Spirit to bring about salvation. How does this encourage you to trust God in evangelism?

10. How does the resurrection of Jesus (verses 24-36) assure you of the hope and power of the gospel for those who believe?

Prayer and Act

Spend a few moments praying about what you've learned. Ask God to give you boldness and trust in His power to save. Pray for specific people in your life who need to hear the good news of Jesus.

10 Things

we are thankful God has been doing in our church family:

1. The addition of new people to our church communities.

2. Helping 4 people understand the gospel and trust the good news about Jesus.

3. Young people from non-church families attending our Friday Kids and HPS programs recently.

4. The chance to welcome new members to our church through the Belonging Course.

5. Being encouraged in music ministry by the music team.

6. Sending 2 High Schoolers to Leaders in Training in January.

7. Members of our creche starting in Kindergarten and all the opportunities to share their faith.

8. New leaders who have put their hand up to lead new GaP Groups this year.

9. Partnering with Reach Australia to help us get better at serving others with the gospel.

10. Generous financial provision which allows us to celebrate together for the glory of Christ.



Notices

Serving on Sundays

Isn't the character of our Lord Jesus beautiful! Consider his power, his position, his authority as creator and sustainer. How does he express this most powerfully? By coming not to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45).

We believe that beautiful people serve because they have been served by a beautiful savior! Service is in our DNA as followers of Jesus.

Would you like to serve? The young people in our community, our music team and our hospitality teams all need help. If you are interested chat with Pippie or use the Connect Card.



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 out soon.



What's Coming Up

- 12 January Night Church Birthday Relaunch
- 26 - 30 January LiT Camp
- 28 January Crafternoon
- 31 January Friday Kids BBQ
- 2 February Vision Sunday

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

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