



A New King

The life of Jesus
according to Matthew's Gospel

 St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Wk 17

Sunday 2 March 2025

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



TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Song
- Prayers
- Bible Reading:
Matthew 14:13-21
(p. 980)
- Sermon
- Lord's Supper
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

“Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down.” As we gather today, we are reminded of God’s extraordinary love in Jesus—costly love that makes His church a beautiful, diverse, and growing community. Whether you’re new, visiting, or a regular, we are so glad you’re here!

Church is more than just a service; it’s a family where we encourage one another, share life together, and grow in faith. We’d love to help you feel at home, connect with others, and be part of what God is doing here.

One simple way to take the next step is through our Connect Card (accessible via the QR code). Whether you have questions, need prayer, or want to get involved, we’d love to hear from you.

As we sing, pray, and open God’s Word today, may we know His transforming grace more deeply and share it with those around us. Welcome!

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 30 March. 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 1 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 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 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

The King who feeds His people | Matthew 14:13-21

Preacher: Gordon Luk

7 observations about the type of King Jesus is:

1. A king who is different (v. 13a)
2. A king who understands grief (v. 13b)
3. A king with compassion (v. 14)
4. A king who lovingly wants his followers to trust Him (v. 15-17)
5. A king who provides for His people (v. 19)
6. A king in whom we can find satisfaction and abundance (v. 20)
7. A king who is God and man (v. 21)

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

 Discuss together

When someone tells you what to do, what’s your first instinct—do you follow the rules, push back, or find a way around them?

 Going deep in God’s Word

Read Matthew 14:1-21

Compare what kind of king Jesus is with King Herod.

King Herod (v. 1-12)	Jesus (v. 13-21)

The Kingdom of Heaven is about accepting Jesus as your King.

What do you find challenging about having someone else (Jesus) rule your life? What do you find comforting from this passage about Jesus being your king?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time reflecting on the following questions, sharing and praying together.

1. Are there parts of your life you still find difficult bringing under the loving rule of Jesus?

2. How can you give thanks for the kind of king Jesus is?

If you have time, finish by singing He Calls Me Friend together, you can scan this QR Code to listen to a recording with lyrics.



Read the Bible with us!

Using some of the questions to guide you.

1. What does this show me about God?
2. What does this show me about myself and my relationship to God?
3. What does this show me about Jesus?
4. How might this shape my heart, mind, life, actions today?

Monday – [1 Peter 1](#)

Tuesday – [1 Peter 2](#)

Wednesday – [1 Peter 3](#)

Thursday – [1 Peter 4](#)

Friday – [1 Peter 5](#)

Notices

Gospel and Prayer Groups

“The wisdom of other Christians in my GaP group encourages me and helps me stay steadfast on the straight and narrow path of following Jesus.” — anonymous church member.

A massive part of our life together at St Stephen's happens during the week in our Gospel and Prayer (GaP) groups. The Christian life is not meant to be walked on our own but in relationships with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Our GaP groups are places of spiritual refreshment during our weeks where we pray and care for one another, and encourage each other to let God's Word shape our lives. If you're a follower of Jesus and call St Stephen's home, don't miss out on the joy of being part of a GaP group. Fill out a connect card for more information.



Alpha - 24 February - 24 March

Alpha is a space for anyone curious about life, meaning, and faith.

No pressure, no judgment—just good food and great conversations.

We start with dinner, watch a short video, and then chat openly over dessert. No prior church experience needed—just come as you are!

Join us tomorrow night (Monday) from 7-9 PM in the Chapel Hall.
Free dinner provided!

st-stephens.com.au/explore



Notices

SRE

Special Religious Education gives us the chance to take the gospel into our local schools each week. This year our team has the privilege of sharing the news of Jesus with over 200 students at Willoughby Public School. Would you take time to pray for this ministry as it starts. We value big prayers - so please pray that the School would experience a revival that leads staff and students to faith in Jesus.

Big Day Out - 22 March

Big Day Out is going to be an amazing Saturday for the 9:30 Community. Don't miss out - register to join us.



What's Coming Up

3 - 24 March	Alpha
21 March	Friday Kids & HPS Big Week
22 March	Big Day Out
30 March	Newish Morning Tea
31 March	Come and See

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

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