



# A New King

The life of Jesus  
according to Matthew's Gospel

 St Stephen's  
WILLOUGHBY

Wk 20

## What's on tonight:

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Prayers
- Vision Spot & Announcements
- Break
- Song
- Matthew 16:13-20 (p. 983)
- Sermon
- Q&A
- Apostles' Creed
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.

BSB: 062 272

Account Number:  
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If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

## Sunday 23 March 2025

*"Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." – Psalm 115:1*

Church isn't about us—it's about God's glory. We gather to praise His name, to be shaped by His Word, and to share His love with those around us. Night Church is a place for all people in our neighbourhood to meet the King of Kings and discover the hope found in Jesus.

If you're new or visiting, we're so glad you're here! Whether you're exploring faith or looking for a church family, we'd love to help. Scan the QR code to fill in a Connect Card and let us know how we can support you.

For those who come regularly, church is more than attending—it's welcoming others in. Take a moment to greet someone new, invite them into conversation, or introduce them to others.

May tonight remind us that we live for His glory, resting in His love and faithfulness, and extending that love to those around us.



### Next Steps

**Are you new?** [Catch up](#) with Prash or Jill to share your story and hear about St Stephen's church life.

**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 sooner, you may also like to 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.

"Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

(Matthew 22:37-40)

## A Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart,  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Words of Assurance

If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins...  
(1 John 2:1b-2a)

## The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a variant of an ancient baptismal confession known as the Old Roman Creed. The earliest form dates to AD 341.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy universal church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Collect for the day

A 'Collect' is an Anglican prayer written in the 1600s and tailored for this day each year.

We ask you,  
Almighty God,  
look upon the deep desires of your humble servants,  
and stretch forth the right hand of your Majesty,  
to be our defence against all our enemies;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## 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 builds His Church | Matthew 16:13-20

Preacher: Gordon Luk

Boxes and wheelbarrows...

Three “unmissables”:

1. The question (v. 15)

2. The confession (v. 16-17)

3. The promise (v. 18-19)

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

## Discuss together

What have you heard your non-Christian friends say about who Jesus is?  
What surprised you or didn't surprise you about their response(s), and why?

## Going deep in God's Word

### Read Matthew 16:13-20

1. What is so different about Peter's response/confession (v. 16) to what others say (v. 14), and even to our friends (opening question)?
2. Write down in your own words what it means that Jesus is the Messiah/Christ, the Son of the living God. Share this around the group.
3. How does Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, challenge the person who says:
  - a. **"I decide who I am, and I choose to live my truth/life."**
  - b. **"There are many great spiritualities in the world, including Jesus."**
4. What comforts are there in the words of Jesus to Peter (v. 17-19)?  
Think particularly of:
  - a. The kind of man Peter is/will be that Jesus would still bless him in this way (see v. 22-23)
  - b. Jesus's vision and promise of His Church

## Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

Which of the following words from the passage are you wrestling with the most right now? You may want to break into smaller groups to share and pray in light of God's Word.

- **“Who do you say I am?”**
- **“You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”**
- **“I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”**

If you have time, finish by singing There is One Gospel 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 – [Romans 1:1-17](#)

Tuesday – [Romans 1:18-32](#)

Wednesday – [Romans 2:1-29](#)

Thursday – [Romans 3:1-20](#)

Friday – [Romans 3:21-31](#)

# Notices

## AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Church Building at 7:30pm on Monday 31 March 2025. Those who have been attending our church regularly for the past 3 months and have been baptised can vote in the meeting. Nominations for office bearers are available from the office. Annual Financial Reports are available at the back of the church. This year's AGM will give you an opportunity to hear about our proposal for works on the Church building.

## KYCK 2025

KYCK is a conference for high school students in the Blue Mountains. From May 2nd- 4th, those in Years 7-12 will hear Bible talks, sing, and spend time together. It's a great chance to learn and grow in faith. Do you know anyone in high school you could invite along? Got questions? Speak to Nikita. We hope to see you there!



## Alpha

This Monday night is the last night of Alpha. Here are some quotes to stop and give thanks to God for.

From our guests:

"I love the Alpha videos, they are the best part of the night."

"Thank you for the dinner and Alpha content. I did feel a joy when watching the videos and a desire to know more."

"After I watch the videos and experience everything here tonight, my question is: How can you not believe this?"

From members of the Alpha team:

"In my time doing Alpha at St Stephen's, I think this is the biggest Alpha so far—praise God!"

"Talking to guests at the tables has strengthened my own convictions in the gospel and made me excited to evangelise again!"



## What's Coming Up

|             |                                   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 24 March    | Alpha                             |
| 31 March    | Come and See - follow on to Alpha |
| 31 March    | AGM - 7:30pm in the Church        |
| 2 - 4 April | Staff Retreat                     |
| 5 April     | Working Bee                       |

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

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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