



A New King

The life of Jesus
according to Matthew's Gospel

 St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Wk 22

Sunday 6 April 2025

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

Jesus often taught about God's gracious generosity—His kingdom is not about what we earn but about His mercy and love. As Jesus journeys toward the cross, He reminds His disciples that He will give His life as a ransom for many—but that's not the end of the story.

*"Yes! He lives! He is risen from the grave,
Victorious, our Saviour reigns!"*

These lyrics remind us of the hope and victory we celebrate today—Jesus is alive, ruling as King, and calling all people into His kingdom.

If you're new or visiting, we're so glad you're here! We'd love to connect—scan the QR code to fill in a Connect Card and let us know how we can support you.

As we gather, may we be humbled by God's grace, joyful in Christ's victory, and encouraged by our time together as His people.



TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Reading:
Matthew 20:1-19
(p. 987)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Lord's Supper
- Vision Spot
- 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.

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 27 April. 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.

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

An Unfair Kingdom? | Matthew 20:1-19

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. The Offense of the Kingdom

2. The King in the Kingdom

3. Life in the Kingdom

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

"You get what you work for."

Share with each other how this motto has been a part of your upbringing and also your day-to-day world.

Going deep in God's Word

Read Matthew 20:1-34

1. Often, the parts of the Bible that make us uncomfortable are the very ones God uses to speak to us most deeply. Go back over verses 1-16 and highlight the parts you feel most uncomfortable about. Why?

2. What does the parable (v. 1-16) show us about God's character? What about God's character challenges you? What about His character brings you joy?

3. How do the subsequent passages add to this picture of what the Kingdom of Heaven is all about?

a. Verses 17-19

b. Verses 20-28

c. Verses 29-34

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

Think of a friend or colleague who is deeply stuck in a “works-based righteousness” mindset. What could you share from this passage to them?

Spend some time praying for these friends.

Spend some time praying for Easter.

If you have time, finish by singing How Deep the Father’s Love For Us 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 7:1-6](#)

Tuesday – [Romans 7:7-25](#)

Wednesday – [Romans 8:1-17](#)

Thursday – [Romans 8:18-30](#)

Friday – [Romans 8:31-39](#)

Notices

Easter Thursday Night

As well as our services on Good Friday (9:30am) and Easter Sunday (9:30am and 6pm), we are excited about something new for Thursday night, 17 April – the Story of Jesus told through music and the arts!

Whether your friends are familiar with the story of Jesus or exploring it for the first time, this will be a night of reflection, inspiration, and hope. We'd love to see you there! Supper and drinks will be included.

FOR THE *wounded* WORLD
EASTER AT ST STEPHEN'S

Thursday 17th April 7:30pm to 8:30pm with supper and drinks Experience the story of Jesus through music and the arts	Good Friday 18th April 9:30am All-ages service with a kids' program and hot cross buns	Easter Sunday 20th April 9:30am All-ages service with an Easter egg hunt and a free sausage sizzle 6pm Modern worship service interwoven with ancient words and a free dinner
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Prayers answered

Over the past weeks we have seen God graciously answer some of our big prayers:

- 5 people made a commitment to following Jesus at the end of our Alpha course and they, along with two others, want to keep meeting as part of the Come & See Course.
- Friday Kids has seen a number of new non-church kids attend our program.
- Many new members have generously offered to serve in positions of leadership.
- We have seen increased attendance at our midweek GaP Groups this year.
- Big Day Out was a great encouragement to 9:30am Church.
- New people have joined Night Church in the past month.

Thank you Lord!



Notices

Alpha celebration

Last week was the end of our Alpha course that began back in February with the Lunar New Year Banquet. As a church, we prayed that God would use us to proclaim the light of the gospel to our community and we prayed for each other that we would be bold in bringing our friends along.

Praise God for all those who came along to our 1st week of Alpha at the LNY Banquet (over 30 non-church guests)!

Praise God for the 14 guests who came along to the rest of the Alpha course!

Praise God for the 5 who indicated that they had accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour during the Alpha course!

Please do pray for the Come and See nights following from Alpha, that as we see Jesus in John's Gospel, God would bring about a spiritual transformation in the lives of all who attend.



Gospel and Prayer Groups celebration

There's been a lot to praise God for as we head towards the end of Term 1 for our Gospel and Prayer (GaP) groups. We've had around 15 new people across our church join a GaP group this year, started two new Gap groups, and appointed 7 new GaP group leaders.

Please pray that our groups would grow to be places where we feed richly on God's Word, encourage one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, and pursue gospel-shaped lives together.



What's Coming Up

7 April	Come and See - follow on to Alpha
10 April	Encounter for Seniors
17 April	The story of Jesus through music and art
18 April	Good Friday service
20 April	Easter Sunday services

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

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