



# A New King

The life of Jesus  
according to Matthew's Gospel

 St Stephen's  
WILLOUGHBY

Wk 23

Sunday 13 April 2025

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

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem in Matthew 21:1-11, the crowds welcomed Him with palm branches and joyful shouts of "Hosanna!"—praising the King who brings salvation. Like them, we gather today to lift our voices to the King of creation, echoing the words of the hymn:



*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!"*

Whether you're here for the first time or have been part of this church for years, we're so glad you're with us. We long to see a **beautiful, diverse, and large** church community by the gracious work of Christ, and we believe that every person here is part of God answering that prayer.

If you're new or visiting, we'd love to hear from you. Use the Connect Card via the QR code to let us know how you found the service and how we can help you connect.

What a privilege it is to meet together as God's people!

## 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.

## TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Song
- Spotlight
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Bible Reading: Matthew 21:1-11 (p. 988)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- 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.

# 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

Heavenly Father,  
we praise you for adopting us as your children  
and making us heirs of eternal life.  
In your mercy you have washed us from our sins  
and made us clean in your sight.  
Yet we still fail to love you as we should  
and serve you as we ought.  
Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,  
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,  
in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:4-5

## 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 Coming of the King | Matthew 21:1-11**

Preacher: Simon Flinders

## **Introduction: Making An Entrance**

### **1. The Coming of Jesus to Jerusalem**

- the preparations (vv.1-3)
- the fulfillment of prophecy (vv.4-5)
- the welcome on the road (vv.6-9)
- the moment of arrival (vv.10-11)

### **2. The Key Question Then: Who Is This?**

### **3. The Key Question Now**

## **Conclusion: Two Words of Caution**

- don't be mistaken about Jesus
- don't underestimate Jesus

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

## Praying for one another

Spend some time praying for each other as the last week of term.

1. What is one thing that God has encouraged you with this term?
2. What is one thing that God has challenged you with this term?

## Going deep in God's Word

### **Read Matthew 21:1-11**

1. Imagine someone with no understanding/appreciation of Jesus. What words would they use to describe the scene of Jesus riding on a donkey?

### **Read Psalm 118 and Zechariah 9:9-17**

2. How do these two Old Testament prophecies re-paint this picture of Jesus riding on a donkey? What words would they use to describe the same scene?
3. How does the picture of our King Jesus challenge what we might deem important about being in His Kingdom?

## Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In which of the following ways have you wrestled with what the world cares about, rather than what the Kingdom is all about?

1. Your sense of worth compared to others
2. What a good and full life looks like
3. What you find yourself working hardest towards

If you have time, finish by singing Jerusalem 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 9](#)

Tuesday – [Romans 10](#)

Wednesday – [Romans 11:1-24](#)

Thursday – [Romans 11:25-36](#)

Friday – [Romans 12:1-3](#)

# Notices

## Easter

We'd love to invite you and your friends to come experience Easter with us at St Stephen's. In a world that's looking for hope, the gospel at the heart of Easter is always relevant! Who could you bring along to Easter?

We have services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Our concert on Maundy Thursday is also going to be a welcoming space where anyone can engage with the story of Jesus through live music and art. Thank you to all who helped with our letterbox drop. There are still many fliers for you to take to give to a friend. Grab one at the back of church!

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

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

KYCK is now less than a month away, and we're pleased to share that seven of our youth will be attending this year's conference in the Blue Mountains, running from May 2nd - 4th.

This is a valuable opportunity for our young people to grow in their faith and connect with others. It's not too late to register—please get in touch with Nikita at [nikita@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:nikita@st-stephens.com.au) for more information.



# Notices

## Baptisms

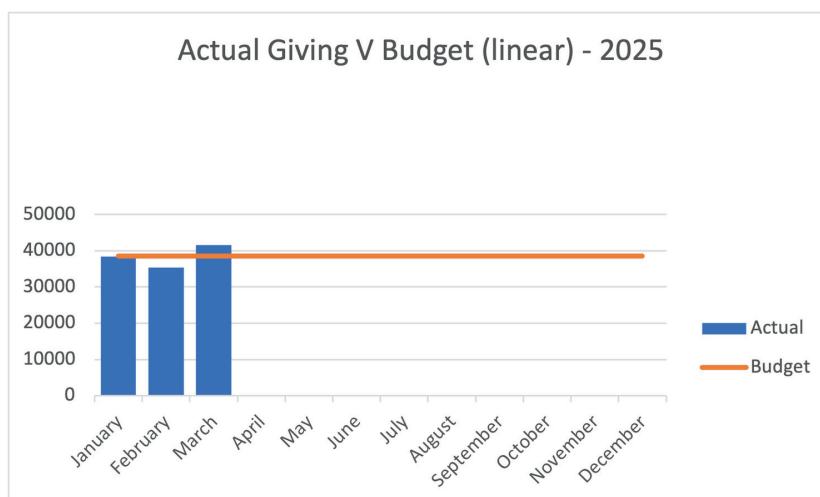
Praise God for Janice, Alex, Tim and Amanda who just finished the baptism course this week! Over the last month, we've spent time appreciating the new hope, the new life and the new family we have in Jesus—which is what baptism points to. What an encouragement to see God at work amongst us! Alex, Tim and Amanda will be baptised at Night Church on Easter Sunday! Stay tuned for Janice's baptism later in Term 2.



## Finances

Every aspect of our church life is a product of generosity - God's generosity to us and then our generosity to others. Perhaps you have joined our church in the past 12 months?

We want to invite you to partner with us financially in the ministry that happens. When new people start giving regularly to church it allows us to invest in new ministries which reach new people with the eternal good news of Jesus. To start giving visit our give page - [st-stephens.com.au/give](http://st-stephens.com.au/give).



## What's Coming Up

|          |                                          |
|----------|------------------------------------------|
| 14 April | Come and See - follow on to Alpha        |
| 17 April | The story of Jesus through music and art |
| 18 April | Good Friday service                      |
| 20 April | Easter Sunday services                   |
| 27 April | Newish Morning Tea                       |

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

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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