



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

WE LONG TO BE A CHURCH MADE

beautiful, diverse and large

by the gracious work of Christ

Wk 1

Sunday 4 May 2025

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

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Song
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Prayers
- Joshua 24:1-28 (p. 236)
- Sermon
- Song
- Lord's Supper
- Song
- Conclusion

It's wonderful to have you with us today—whether you're visiting, new, or a regular part of our church family. Today is Vision Sunday, and we're focusing on one of our key values: growing the young in devotion to God's Word.



In Joshua 24, God's people were called to choose whom they would serve. We want to say with confidence, "We will serve the Lord." That's our prayer for every generation in our church family, from the youngest to the oldest.

Our vision is simple and big: We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ. Every Sunday—and every step we take—is part of our hope for that vision come to bear.

We'd love to hear from you! Use the Connect Card (via the QR code) to let us know how we can help you connect and grow.

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 today. 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 Power of the right household | Joshua 24:1-28

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. A courageous household

For the church

A.

B.

C.

For Christian Households

A.

B.

C.

For mixed households

A.

B.

C.

2. A compromised household

3. A household for heaven

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening Question

How has society's view of children and families changed throughout your lifetime? How do you think it compares with the view of children and family in the time of the Bible?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Joshua 24:1-28

1. Try to split up Joshua's speech (v. 2-27) to the Israelites into smaller sections. Share with each other why you broke it up the way you did.

2. Describe what the tension is in verses 19 to 22. What does it say about God's nature and our nature?

3. How does Jesus do what Israel can't here? What comfort is there for us in wanting to serve the LORD and turn away from idols?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, reflect on the following questions:

1. What idols are you tempted to serve instead of God as a family? If you have children, what things often compete with you leading them to put God first?

2. What motivations are there in the gospel for us leading ourselves (and our families) to put God first?

Spend some time confessing our sin to God and asking Him to teach you by His Spirit to put Him first.

Spend some time praying for the children and families at church that they would grow in devotion to God and His Word.

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 14:1-23](#)

Tuesday – [Romans 15:1-6](#)

Wednesday – [Romans 15:7-13](#)

Thursday – [Romans 15:14-33](#)

Friday – [Romans 16:1-27](#)

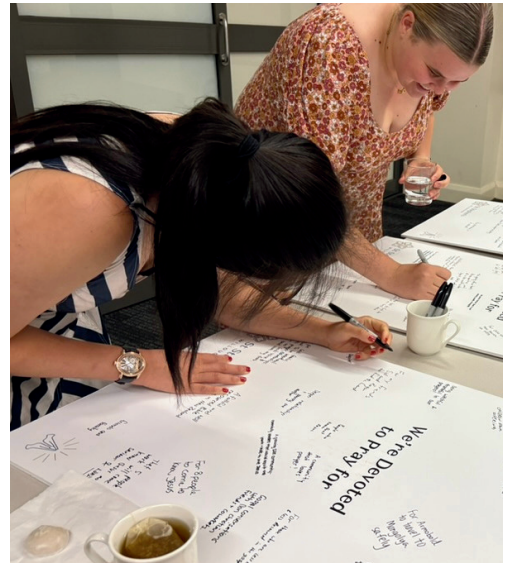
Notices

Week of Prayer - 5-9 May

Prayer week starts Monday 5 May.
Come Mon-Thursday from 7:30-8:30pm
to pray for the ministries, life and lives of
our church. If you cannot make a
weeknight come on Friday at 1-2pm to
pray instead. Pop it in your diary so you
do not forget. (all in the Chapel Hall).

Every great movement of God can be
traced to a kneeling figure.

— D.L. Moody



Alpha for Seniors - 15 May

The Team from Encounter are running Alpha for Seniors each Thursday from 10-12pm starting on 15 May. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reach our older community with the gospel.

Can you help by distributing flyers for the team? We hope to see the program filled with non-Christian elderly members of our community. If you have a non-Christian friend, over the age of 65 who will appreciate the opportunity to discuss life & faith over food with friendship then bring them along.



Belonging - 1 June

On 1 June we are hosting our next belonging event. Every quarter we take time to welcome new people deeper into our church community. Have you been attending for a while and want to immerse yourself in the life of our church? Belonging is a great option. Belonging runs for 3 hours, includes lunch and afternoon tea, gives you a chance to meet the staff, hear about the direction and culture of our church and work out how God can use you in his mission. To RSVP please use the link below.



[RSVP using this link.](#)

Notices

Helping Families read the Bible together

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." – 2 Timothy 3:16

Reading the Bible during the week is key for growing the young in devotion to God's word. We know it can be hard, so this term we are revamping the 'Read the Bible with Us' section of the booklet!

Each week, two days will be bolded – these are readings specially aimed for families to do together with their kids. It's short (5-10 minutes) and simple – but God's word is powerful. So give it a go!



How?



1. Pick 2 days
2. Pick a time (breakfast, dinner, before bed)
3. Read the passage
4. Answer the questions
5. Pray a short prayer



BIBLE READING TRACKER					
WEEK 1	☐	☐	WEEK 6	☐	☐
WEEK 2	☐	☐	WEEK 7	☐	☐
WEEK 3	☐	☐	WEEK 8	☐	☐
WEEK 4	☐	☐	WEEK 9	☐	☐
WEEK 5	☐	☐	WEEK 10	☐	☐

Bible Verse:
"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 3:5

When: _____
Where: _____
Why: _____



Kids and Youth will receive a Bible reading tracker in today's program

Read the Bible with us! For Families!

Using some of the questions to guide you.
(Parents go first)

1. What is something you like about this passage?
2. Finish the sentence, God (or Jesus) is...
3. Praise God that Jesus is at work through us today.

Monday – [Acts 1:1-5](#)
Tuesday – [Acts 1:6-11](#)
Wednesday – [Acts 1:12-26](#)
Thursday – [Acts 2:1-13](#)
Friday – [Acts 2:14-41](#)

What's Coming Up

28 April	Come and See
29 April	Crafternoon
2-4 May	KYCK Conference
4 May	Vision Sunday
5-9 May	Week of Prayer

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



Prashanth Colombage
Senior Minister & Sunday Services
M: 0432 314 466
E: prash@st-stephens.com.au



Gordon Luk
Outreach & GaP Groups
E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au



Pippie Krebs
Kids & Youth Minister & Training
E: pippie@st-stephens.com.au



Jill Chilton
Membership Minister
E: jill@st-stephens.com.au



Bec Simmons
Off-site Administrator
E: office@st-stephens.com.au