



Week 1

Sunday 1 February 2026

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

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Bible Reading: Matthew 6:5-15 (p. 970)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Lord's Supper
- 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.

Welcome! We're so glad you're with us today—whether you're visiting for the first time or part of our regular church family. Today we begin our new Term 1 series, **Learning to Pray with Jesus**, and we couldn't be more excited. Our hope is that this term would supercharge our prayer lives—not by adding pressure, but by drawing us deeper into the joy of knowing God.



Connect Card

In our first week, we'll explore how prayer shaped by the gospel is marked by both intimacy and awe. Because of Jesus, we are invited to come close to God as our loving Father, while also being lifted to worship Him as the holy King. Prayer is less about technique and more about relationship.

As a church, we long to be made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ, and prayer sits right at the heart of that vision. Stick around after the service for free brunch—we'd love to meet you.

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 22 February. 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 March 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

Learning to Pray with Jesus | Matt 6:5-15

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. The Intimacy of Prayer

Not a religious practice

Experiencing Fatherly love

2. The Structure of Prayer

Following Jesus's teaching

The Difficulty

3. The Safety Net for Prayer

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

“We can talk to God about anything in prayer!”

What is true and helpful about this statement? What might make it unhelpful? Why do you think this?

Going deep in God’s Word

Read Matthew 6:5-15

1. Go through the passage and list out all the parts that show us:

The intimacy of prayer	The reverence of prayer

2. Which danger are you more likely to fall into?

(a) praying with intimacy but no reverence

(b) praying with reverence but no intimacy

3. How does the passage show us that Jesus:

(a) shows us how to pray (ie. He is our model)

(b) prays for us (ie. He is our mediator)

4. How do these two things about Jesus help us pray with intimacy and reverence?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time praying together, using the prompts below taken from the Lord's Prayer we've just studied.

1. How does it make you feel that Jesus invites you to call God "Father"?
2. How might you be more concerned about your name, your will and your 'kingdom' instead of God's name, God's will and God's kingdom?
3. How easy is it to feel independent and ungrateful for God's daily provisions for our basic needs?
4. Are you struggling to forgive someone?
5. Are you aware of the Devil's daily temptations? How can you ask for God's help in this everyday?

Spend time with God each day!

As we go through Matthew's Gospel on Sundays and the prayers of Jesus, we want to help you spend time with God each day in His Word and in prayer. The Psalms are a rich book of songs/prayers all about Jesus—He prays these psalms as a man, and yet the psalms are about Him as God's Son and the Messiah, the son of King David. Reflect on the following questions.

1. What stirs your heart about Jesus as you think about Him praying the words of this Psalm as a man on earth?
2. How does it enlarge your view and understanding of your Father in heaven?
3. How can the Spirit use this psalm that Jesus prays to enrich what you confess to God, what you give thanks to Him for, and what you ask Him for?

Monday - [Psalm 1](#)
Tuesday - [Psalm 2](#)
Wednesday - [Psalm 3](#)
Thursday - [Psalm 4](#)
Friday - [Psalm 5](#)

Notices

Kick Off Sunday & Prayer Week

Today is “Kick Off Sunday”. We’re starting our main ministries, kicking off our life together this year and praying for God’s work in and through us. We’d love to celebrate with you over brunch (free). We hope you can join us, reconnect and recommit to the year ahead.

From Monday to Friday we will have our 1st prayer week. We hope all members can join us (7:30-8:30pm Mon-Thurs or 1pm on Friday).



Kids & Youth



TERM 1

Kids and Youth

Jesus said ‘Let the Little Children come to me’
Our usual kids and youth programs start this week. Check out what they are looking at this term.

SUNDAY

Gumnuts	Who is Jesus?
Gumleaves	The Lord’s Prayer Matthew
Bluegums	
Junior High	The Lord’s Prayer
Senior High	PRAYERS OF JESUS

FRIDAY

Friday kids	Christianity explored
Half Past Six	God is...

Notices

Big Day Out



Alpha & Lunar New Year Banquet

The Alpha course is a relaxed, welcoming space to explore life's big questions—no pressure, no prior church experience needed. It begins on Monday 23 February with our Lunar New Year Banquet, featuring a three-course meal. Over good food and conversation, we'll watch a short video that asks, Is there more to life? Whether you're curious, sceptical, or just exploring, you're warmly invited to come, connect with others, and explore life, meaning, faith.



What's Coming Up

2-6 February	Week of Prayer
2 February	Come and See
3 February	SRE Conference
6 February	Half Past Six BBQ
8 February	Kids Ministry Leaders Commissioning

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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