



Week 6

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Readings:
Matthew 18:18-20
& Psalm 122
- Sermon
- Confession &
Assurance
- Prayers
- 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.

Sunday 8 March 2026

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

We're thrilled to have you join us as we continue our journey of **Learning to Pray Like Jesus**. Our aspiration this term has been both straightforward and daring—aiming for a supercharged prayer life.



Connect Card

This week, we emphasize the privilege of praying together. In Matthew 18, Jesus assures us of His presence whenever two or three gather in His name. Prayer is not merely a private act of dependence; it's a shared experience of reliance. Psalm 122 beautifully expresses this joy: "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" There is a unique power in seeking God side by side.

In a society that values independence and self-reliance, praying together serves as a reminder that we are interconnected in Christ.

Additionally, we invite you to join us for All-in Training at lunch, an opportunity to enhance our ability to serve others. As we pray and serve together, may God mold us into a church that embodies His grace and relies on Him wholeheartedly.

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 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

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

For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18

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

Praying Together | Matthew 18:19-20 and Psalm 122

Preacher: Gordon Luk

What's the real distinctiveness of Christian community?

1. Jesus is in our midst when we gather and pray (Matt 18:19-20)
2. Jesus is in our midst when we need to seek peace (Matt 18:15-35)
3. Jesus, the one who prays for peace and brings true peace (Psalm 122)

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

Think of the different communities you are a part of. How does your experience of church community compare? What are the similarities and differences?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Matthew 18:15-35

1. How do Jesus' instructions (v. 15-18) show how seriously He takes sin? What is His goal for these scenarios (v. 15b) and how is that different from how people typically respond to conflict?
2. How does Jesus' response to Peter's question (v. 21-35) show how seriously He takes mercy? How is that different from our people typically respond to conflict?
3. How does this context of (v. 15-35) shed light on what Jesus says in verse 19 and 20? How does this challenge your natural posture towards church community and relationships?
4. Summarise what this passage is saying about how significantly different church is compared to all other communities in our world. What practical steps do you need to make/change to live out this truth in your life?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

Read Psalm 122

use the following verses as prompts to pray together.

I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD”(v 1)

- Praise the Lord Jesus who opens the doors of God’s Kingdom for us to come to worship God.
- Praise God for the joy of gathering with brothers and sisters to worship Him.

That [Jerusalem] is where the tribes go up—the tribes of the LORD—to praise the name of the LORD (v. 4)

- Praise the Lord for the New Jerusalem, where peoples from every tribe and tongue, washed by Jesus’ blood will come to praise Him.
- Pray for God’s people all around the world to live under His heavenly throne

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem...For the sake of my family and friends...For the sake of the house of the LORD our God (v. 6-9)

- Praise God that when Christ went to Jerusalem to be crucified, true peace came.
- Pray for peace in our church and for Christ to be central to our belonging and community.
- Pray for Morning Church Big Day Out and Night Church Weekend Away (30 Oct to 1 Nov) as moments of growing closer to Christ and each other
- Pray for Christ’s peace in the world.

Spend time with God each day!

As we go through Matthew on Sundays, we want to help you spend time with God each day. The Psalms are song-prayers about Jesus. He prayed these words as a man, and they speak about Him as the Messiah, the Son of David.

Use these questions to guide your reflection and prayer:

1. What stands out to you about Jesus when you imagine Him praying this Psalm on earth?
2. What does this Psalm show you about God your Father?
3. How can the Spirit use this Psalm to shape your prayers now?
 - what you confess to God,
 - what you thank Him for,
 - what you ask Him for

Monday - [Psalm 31](#)

Tuesday - [Psalm 32](#)

Wednesday - [Psalm 33](#)

Thursday - [Psalm 34](#)

Friday - [Psalm 35](#)

Notices

All In Training - Today

All in training is today! Everything we do here at st Stephen's is thanks to the wonderful ministry of our teams. All in training is a chance for teams to gather and be equipped to serve God and his people. It's not too late to come, just speak to Pippie.

ALL IN TRAINING

Train, Equip, Encourage.

REGISTER HERE



SUNDAY, 8TH MARCH

- Who: ALL VOLUNTEERS
- Date: SUNDAY, 8TH MARCH
- Time: 11:45-2:15PM
- Lunch and kid's program INCLUDED

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms
1 Peter 4:10



Alpha - What is it & who is it for?

explore

life
faith
meaning



COME & SEE
MONDAYS 7-9PM
at St Stephen's Willoughby
FREE DINNER INCLUDED!



 Mon 23 Feb (Lunar New Year Banquet) Is there more to life?	 Mon 16 Mar How can I have faith?
 Mon 2 Mar Who is Jesus?	 Mon 23 Mar Why & how do I pray?
 Mon 9 Mar Why did Jesus die?	 Mon 30 Mar How do I read the Bible?



TryAlpha

The Alpha course continues after the Lunar New Year Banquet on every Monday night in March.

Our prayer is that many guests who come to the banquet will be curious and open to discovering for themselves the life that Jesus offers.

The Alpha course walks through the basics of the Christian faith in a warm, welcoming space for honest questions.

No prior experience nor knowledge needed.

It's free, includes dinner and drinks.

Who could you bring along?

Notices

Big Day Out

“I wish I could develop deep friendships”

Ever heard someone say that? We think deep spiritual friendships are essential. They come about when we commit to spend time, energy and attention on others. Big Day Out is the chance to develop these kind of deep spiritually rich friendships. Come for the day and grow with us. Kids rego is free because we really want all our church family with us.

A vibrant yellow poster for the 'Morning Church Big Day Out' event. The text on the left reads: 'Morning Church', 'Big Day Out' in large stylized letters, 'Join us on Saturday 21st March 10am-7pm', 'St Faith's Narrabeen', and 'Guest speaker: Chris Edwards' with a QR code. On the right, there are four circular photo cutouts: two elderly women sitting, a group of people at a table by the water, two men and a child on a slide, and two young girls with fruit. The background is decorated with colorful wavy lines.

Playtime

Playtime continues to be a wonderful doorway for families to take one step closer to Jesus. We praise God for the many new families who have joined this year, building friendships and finding community. It's been especially encouraging to see several parents open to talking about spiritual things. Please thank God for these opportunities and pray that God might use this ministry to save many.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Every year we hold our Annual General Meeting on the final Monday of March. If you are baptised and have been attending our church for 3 months or more you are entitled to attend and vote. Come hear about the ministry, needs and opportunities that lie ahead for 2026/27. We will be considering such things as the church refurbishment, new staffing, office holders and plans for the year ahead - Monday 30 March at 7:30pm in the Church.

What's Coming Up

9, 16, 23, 30 March	Alpha Course
21 March	Big Day Out
29 March	Newish Morning Tea
2 April	Maundy Thursday 2nd April
3 April	Good Friday
5 April	Easter Sunday

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

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