



Why, O Lord?

LET'S FIND HOPE THIS EASTER AT ST STEPHEN'S

St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Easter
Sunday

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Song - with Playtime.
- Bible Reading: Matthew 28:1-10
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Lord's Supper
- Youth take over! (with some supervision).
- 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 5 April 2026

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

Welcome—and Happy Easter!

We're so glad you're here to celebrate this day with us.

In Matthew 28:1-10, the women come to the tomb expecting death—but instead find it empty. An angel declares, “**He is not here: he has risen.**” Fear turns to joy. Grief gives way to hope.

His resurrection means forgiveness is real, new life is possible, and hope is alive for all who trust in Him. Whether you're visiting, exploring, or part of our church family, we hope today helps you see the beauty and significance of Jesus for yourself.

After the service, **stick around for our sausage sizzle and Easter egg hunt**—a great chance to relax, celebrate, and connect with others.



Connect Card

Next Steps

Are you new? **Catch up** with Prash or Jill to share your story and hear about St Stephen's church life.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next **Belonging Course** which runs on 14 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 sooner, you may also like to arrange a coffee with Gordon 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

Our Father in heaven,
You are big and we are small.
Thank you that you are the King over everything.
We are sorry for not loving or listening to you.
We are sorry that we choose our way instead of yours.
Please help us live as friends with you
through Jesus Christ.
Help us to listen and love you by your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

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

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.

Sermon Notes

The God Who Hears and Raises | Matthew 28:1-10

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. The 'why' we're all asking

2. The 'why' Jesus's friends were asking

3. The 'why' Jesus could be asking you

Go Deeper at Home

Whether you're exploring Christianity or have followed Jesus for years, we'd love to invite you to read and reflect on the resurrection story from the Scriptures themselves. Please use this as a guide to help you go deeper with God over the Easter weekend, and see what Jesus' resurrection means for you.

Read Matthew 27:57-28:20

1. What evidence do we have from the passage that Jesus properly died?
2. Where do we see that there was a suspicion that Jesus' disciples might steal his body and fake his resurrection? How likely do you think that would be?
3. In a first century culture where a woman's word was incorrectly deemed less reliable than a man's, what is the significance of Matthew's account that women were the first to see the risen Jesus?
4. What stands out to you about the details of the women witnessing the empty tomb? Why do you think the women are filled with fear and also joy (Matt 28:8)?
5. Why do you think both the angel and Jesus tell the women to pass the message to the others? How does the end of Matthew's Gospel actually feel like the start of something else? Why do you think the resurrection plays a part in that?
6. Why do you think the common response to meeting the risen Jesus is worship (Matt 28:9, 17)? What about Jesus makes Him worthy of worship? What might it look like for you to worship Him?

Notices

Alpha For Retirees



Try Alpha for Retirees—an easy, welcoming space to explore life, meaning and faith. It's a great way to meet others, share stories, and have relaxed, meaningful conversations. Each week includes food, a short video, and open discussion where you can ask anything. No pressure, no cost—just a friendly place to explore at your own pace.

Not retired? You might know someone who is—why not invite them along? Details are in the flier you received with this booklet.

Come & See

Come & See is perfect for anyone who has done Alpha and wants to know how to live the new life they were made to live with Jesus. Jesus made one of the biggest claims ever when he said:

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

Whether you're still asking life's big questions, looking for a fresh start, or new to the Christian faith, Come & See is a chance read what the Bible says about Jesus and how to live life with him.



Sunday Services



Notices

Half Past Six

'Half Past Six' meets every Friday evening during term time to explore what it means to know and love Jesus.

The program is for years 6-9 and runs from 6:30pm to 8:15pm.

We play games, hang out, have fun, laugh a lot, share our lives, learn about Jesus, explore life, pray and finish with supper.



Friday Kids



'Friday Kids' is an after-school group for kids in Kindergarten to Year 5.

It is held on Friday afternoons during school terms, from 3:30 to 5:00pm.

Friday kids is a fun, safe & meaningful afternoon for kids.

We love seeing kids and their friends from our local schools each Friday as we explore Jesus and have fun together.

The afternoon involves games, free play, afternoon tea, bible stories and craft. It's a great place for your child to make friends, develop social skills and strengthen their spiritual health. Cost \$5 per week.

Playtime

'Playtime' at St Stephen's Church is a playgroup for 0 to 5-year-old children and their carers. It's held on Tuesday mornings during school terms, 9:30am-11:30am.

We aim to provide fantastic resources and a fun, friendly atmosphere where the carers and children can relax.

The morning is made up of a half hour of singing, dancing, Bible stories, and having fun with percussion instruments and parachutes.

Morning tea and informal play runs from 10:00 am -11:00 am and include a craft activity. The morning ends with story time. Playtime facilities include a large indoor hall with plenty of toys, a sheltered veranda and a lovely fenced grass area with a cubby house and slippery dip. Please bring morning tea for your child. Coffee and tea is provided for adults. Cost \$5 per family.



What's Coming Up

13 April	Come & See Starts
16 April	Alpha for Retirees Starts
24 -26 April	KYCK (Youth Camp)
26 April	Newish Morning Tea

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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