



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

WE LONG TO BE A CHURCH MADE

beautiful, diverse and large

by the gracious work of Christ

Week 3

Sunday 26 July 2026

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Prayer for Children
- Song
- Bible Reading: Acts 19:8-20 (p.1113)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

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If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.



Connect Card

Welcome! We're so glad you're with us as we conclude our Bring Friends series. Whether you're visiting today or have been part of our church for years, it's wonderful to gather together. Over the past two weeks we've seen that Jesus welcomes lost people home and satisfies thirsty hearts. Today we see what happens next. In Acts 19, as more people come to trust Christ, an entire city begins to change. Old loyalties are abandoned, lives are transformed, and the kingdom of God quietly advances. It's a reminder that Christianity is never merely a private belief. When Jesus becomes King, families, friendships, workplaces, and communities begin to look different. Here on the Lower North Shore, we long for flourishing neighbourhoods filled with justice, generosity, and hope. The deepest transformation begins as people meet Christ. That's why we long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ—a community through whom God is bringing His renewing grace to our city.

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 September 13 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 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

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.

Words of Assurance

He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

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

What might happen when we lead someone to Christ? | Acts 19:8-20

Preacher: Gordon Luk

What could happen when the gospel comes to a community?

1. There will be rejection and openness (v. 8-9)

2. God working through extraordinary and ordinary miracles (v. 10-12)

3. Some use Christianity for their own gain (v. 14-17)

4. But also genuine and radical transformation as people repent and believe (v. 19-20)

What could happen when the gospel comes to Chatswood, Willoughby, Artarmon?

Going Deeper During The Week

Opening Reflection

What was something you enjoyed, learned, or were challenged by from Sunday's sermon?

Going deep in God's Word

Read the passage from Sunday

1. What stands out to you in this passage? (ie. Are there any repeated words, surprising details, commands, promises, or questions that feel significant?)
2. Try to break down the passage into different sections.
3. What would be missing if we didn't have this passage in the Bible? What does it reveal about who God is and who we are?
4. What aspect of the gospel is shown and magnified by this passage? How does this passage make you delight in and worship your Lord Jesus?

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of this passage, reflect and pray using the following questions as a guide.

1. What is one attitude, belief or belief that God is challenging you to change this week?
2. What comfort can you cling onto this week from His grace?
3. What is an ambitious prayer you can pray for our church and those in our neighbourhood/lives who don't yet know Jesus?

Spend time with God each day!

Read through the passages and use the following questions to help you.

- How does this passage make me adore Jesus?
- How is it challenging me? How is it comforting me?
- What is something I need to do today in light of this?

Monday - 2 Timothy 1
Tuesday - 2 Timothy 2
Wednesday - 2 Timothy 3
Thursday - 2 Timothy 4
Friday - Philemon

Notices

Life and Death Matter

Our sermon series has reminded us that sharing the good news of Jesus is a life and death matter with eternal consequences.



This is why we are dedicating a whole Week of Prayer to pray for this! Join us next week as we desperately ask God to open hearts, create opportunities for gospel conversations, and give us courage to speak. Let's pray expectantly, trusting God to save through His unstoppable gospel.

International Food Feast & Alpha



Sharing our faith is rarely a one-off conversation.

Often, it's a journey of building friendships, sharing our life and faith, and patiently pointing people to Jesus. International Food Feast is a great first step to invite friends into our church community, with

Alpha providing the next opportunity to explore life's biggest questions and discover the good news of Jesus together.

Who could you bring along?

Notices

Why do we run Carols?

- A) To give people in our community a fun Christmas event.
- B) To bring our church family together to celebrate Christmas.
- C) Because getting the gospel out is our first priority, and Carols is a great way to share Jesus with lots of new people.

The answer is C! 🎉

Our community's greatest need is Jesus. Carols is a wonderful first step for many people getting to know him.

To make Carols happen, we need **80+ volunteers on 5 December**. Could that be you?



I want to volunteer on Carols !

Spiritual Growth

Halfway through the year is a great time to pause and ask, "How am I going spiritually?" It's easy for our growth to lose momentum and get distracted. Which part of your spiritual rhythm needs attention to help you listen to Jesus in His Word?

We want to help everyone at St Stephen's have a regular, healthy diet of listening to God's Word at church on Sundays, with a small group of others at GaP group, and every day as they read the Bible. Please reach out via the Connect Card if you'd like to join a GaP group or would like helpful resources for your daily Bible reading time.



Join a
GaP Group



What's Coming Up

27 July	Come and See
28 July	Playtime
31 July	Half Past Six
3 August	Come and See
17 August	International Food Feast

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

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