



WHY SERVING JESUS IS AWESOME

Week 3

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Prayer for Children
- Song
- Bible Reading: Colossians 1:24-29 (p.1183)
- Sermon
- Song
- Vision Spot
- Prayers
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
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If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Sunday 16 August 2026

Growth is something we naturally celebrate. We delight as children learn, friendships deepen and people flourish. Yet the greatest kind of growth is often the easiest to overlook: becoming more like Jesus.



Connect Card

Today we'll hear Paul's passion to see every believer mature in Christ. That is God's desire for every Christian, and remarkably, he uses ordinary people to encourage and strengthen one another along the way.

Whether you're still working out what you believe or you've walked with Christ for many years, we're thankful you've joined us today. We hope you'll see that church is much more than attending a service—it's a community where God is shaping people for eternity.

As we seek to be made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ, may God grow each of us into the likeness of his Son.

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

Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

Colossians 1:27-28

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

Why serving Jesus is awesome | Colossians 1:24-29

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Suffering in joy (v. 24a)

2. Giving everything to what Christ is doing in the world (v. 24b-28)

(a) Identity: as a servant of God (v. 25a)

(b) Task: to proclaim the word of God (v. 25b-27)

(c) Goal: people presented fully mature in Christ (v. 28b)

3. Toiling with Christ's power (v. 29)

Going Deeper During The Week

Opening Reflection

Think of some of your non-Christian peers. What do they work really hard for? What do they think makes it worth the cost and sacrifice they give?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Colossians 1:24-29

1. List all the things we learn about Paul and his ministry here. What's one thing that surprises in you from this list?
2. Paul calls himself a "servant" (v. 25). Do you think this identity as a servant is just for him? Why should this be your identity in Christ too?
3. Summarise from verses 25-28 the task, the message, and the goal of Paul's ministry. Why is this work worth suffering and working hard for?
4. Reflect on what you work hard and toil for. How has this passage challenged you to reconsider your primary identity, your tasks and goals in light of Christ?

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of the challenge in God's Word, lift your hearts up together to the glory of Christ.

Read [Colossians 1:15-23](#) and then pray together using the following points as a guide.

1. Thank God that Christ is in you and that Christ powerfully works His energy in us.

2. Pray for yourself to serve as a servant of Christ, proclaiming Him through His gospel.

3. Pray for others you want to see become mature in Christ.

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 Corinthians 11:1-15](#)

Tuesday – [2 Corinthians 11:16-33](#)

Wednesday – [2 Corinthians 12:1-10](#)

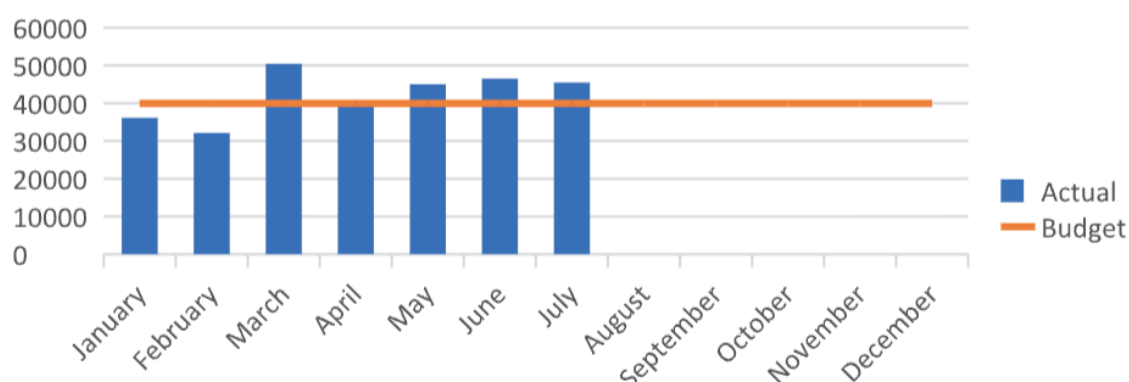
Thursday – [2 Corinthians 12:11-21](#)

Friday – [Galatians 1](#)

Notices

Thank You for Your Generosity

Over the past month, it has been encouraging to see the generosity of our church family. We raised our first-year instalment to support Revesby Anglican in just one week—thank you! It has also been encouraging to see us meet our budget over the past few months. As we look ahead, we hope to increase our ministry spending next year, enabling us to invest more deeply in gospel ministry and the growth of our church. Every month we exceed budget gives us greater capacity to do this.



If you'd like to partner with us financially, see the front of this booklet for details or visit st-stephens.com.au/give.

Growing in Your Daily Walk with Jesus

Who is responsible for your spiritual growth?

God gives us leaders who preach the Word on Sundays. He gives us GaP groups and other Christians who can encourage you during the week. But no one else can walk with Jesus for you every day.

Growing as a Christian means taking responsibility for our own daily walk with Christ — making space to hear Him in His Word and trust Him in prayer every day.

Next step? Do you need to start (or restart) a daily Bible-reading habit? Why not use the Bible reading plan in this booklet to help you?



Notices

MTS Afternoon Tea

Last Sunday, Emlyn reminded us of the importance of full-time ministry and encouraged us to consider if this is something we should do. If the Lord stirred something in your heart, our **MTS Arvo Tea on 27 September at 3:30pm** is a great opportunity to find out more. There's no obligation — just come, ask questions and hear more about MTS.



Helping Young People Explore Jesus

This term, it's not just the adults bringing friends to faith. We want our kids and youth to be fearless about proclaiming Christ. Both of our Friday programs are running courses that provides the perfect way for young people to explore Jesus.

Friday Kids: Investigating Jesus (all term)

HPS: Christianity Explored for Youth (begins 22 August for four weeks)

Already happening !

We're already seeing this in action—one teenage boy has brought two of his friends along this term!



Bring a young person. Invite a friend. Or pray.

Father, make our kids and youth fearless in proclaiming Christ and save many of their friends.

What's Coming Up

17 August	International Food Feast
20 August	Encounter
24 August	Alpha
24 August	Come and See
30 August	Newish Morning Tea

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

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