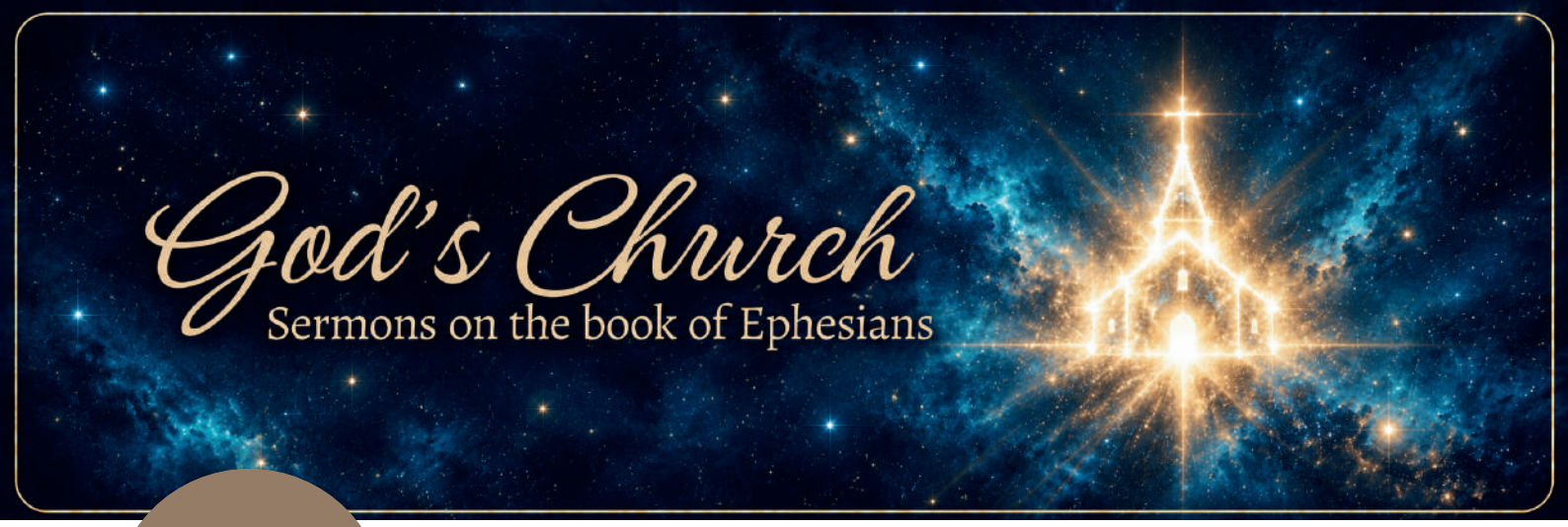


Week 6

Sunday 15 November 2026

Welcome to St Stephen's! In the first half of Ephesians, Paul has shown us the extraordinary things God has done for us in Jesus. Now he begins to show us the kind of church that grace creates.

Connect Card

Our culture often encourages us to approach church as consumers: Do I like it? Does it meet my needs? What am I getting from it? Ephesians gives us a much richer picture. Jesus gives gifts to every part of his church so that his people can serve one another and grow together. Ministry isn't something performed by a few professionals while everybody else watches. Christ gives his people different gifts so that, as "each part does its work," the whole body grows.

That means each of us matters.

We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ. Our hope is not simply for St Stephen's to become larger, but for us to grow together towards maturity in Christ — speaking the truth in love, serving one another and using whatever Jesus has given us for the good of his people.

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Prayer for children
- Song
- Vision Spot
- Prayers
- Song
- Bible Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16 (p.1175)
- Sermon
- Song
- Closing Prayer

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.

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 November 22 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

Prayer is a privilege we have because of Christ's death and resurrection. Through him, we can confidently approach God for forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you trust in Christ, please pray with us. If you are still exploring who Jesus is, feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have gone our own way,
and rejected your will for our lives.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you,
and to please you in every way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

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.

Closing Prayer

Gracious Lord, you give your people gifts
to build up the body of Christ: equip us to serve one another
and to speak the truth in love, that together we may grow into
the likeness of your Son; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sermon Notes

A life worthy of our calling | Ephesians 4:1-16

Preacher: Gordon Luk

A life worthy of our calling (v. 1)

1. Keeping our spiritual unity (v. 2-6)

2. Growing in spiritual maturity (v. 7-16)

   (a) The victorious Christ gives gifts to build His body (v. 7-13)

   (b) Christlike maturity is the goal for His body (v. 13-14)

   (c) Every member grows the body through Christ's truth and love (v. 15-16)

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening Reflection

What do you think it means to be spiritually mature? Do you tend to naturally think of Christian maturity as something individual or communal (ie. together)? Why?

📖 Going deep in God's Word

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

1. Reflecting back on Ephesians 1-3, what is the "calling" we have received (v. 1)? How does this opening verse counter the religious mindset of earning our calling from God through the life we live?

2. What is the basis of our unity (v. 4-6)? What do you think it looks like to make every effort to maintain this unity (v. 2)?

3. It's in the context of this unity that Paul talks about growing together. How does Christ both define and help His Church to grow?

What is Jesus' status and position now (v. 8-10)?	
What gifts has He given, and what is the purpose of these people (v. 11-12)?	
What end goal does Jesus want for His Church body / for each of us (v. 13-14)?	

4. How does Paul say we grow together (v. 15-16)? What part do we each play in this? What might it look like for you to be "speaking the truth in love" to others at our church?

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time praying together using the following questions as a guide.

1. Which of the characteristics in verse 2 do you need the Spirit's help to cultivate? Pray for that and for us to maintain the unity we have at our church.

2. How might you play a part in being equipped to build up our church body in works of service?

3. How can your group keep encouraging each other to grow in maturity in Christ? Be real with each other on how that is going, praying for each other.

Read the Bible with us!

After reading each passage, use ACTS framework to help you listen carefully to God's Word and respond to Him in prayer:

1. Adoration: What does this passage show you about God? Praise him for it.
2. Confession: Where does it challenge your thoughts or actions? Bring that honestly to God.
3. Thanksgiving: What comfort, promise or gift can you thank God for that He has shown you in this passage?
4. Supplication: What help do you need to live out what you've read today? Ask God for it

Monday – Ephesians 1
Tuesday – Ephesians 2
Wednesday – Ephesians 3
Thursday – Ephesians 4
Friday – Ephesians 5

Notices

Gift Day 2026: Give and Pledge for 2027

This Sunday is our Gift Day. Would you prayerfully consider giving toward our goal of $70,000 and pledging to increase your 2027 giving by 10%. This campaign hopes to help fund our new Youth and Membership Minister in 2027. This role will help us continue to grow our youth ministry and welcome in more of the over 200 first-time visitors we see at church each year.



The Bible's commands and our context compel us to make bringing friends to faith, seeing the young grow in devotion to God's word priorities for us. To be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ we must continue to face outward to the 65,000 people who live within 2km of our church.

To give to Gift Day visit our 'give' page (st-stephens.com.au/give) or add 'gift' to the reference in your bank transfer (details on the front cover). To pledge scan the QR code to respond.

Pledge Form

Belonging Lunch: Come and Connect



Our final Belonging Lunch is on Sunday 22 November from 12-3pm. We would love to host you if you haven't been to one. Belonging Lunch is a chance to have lunch with other newer members, hear about the ministry direction of the church and workout how God can use you in his purposes here at St Stephen's.

To register simply tick the box on the connect card here.

Register Here !

Notices

Ephesians: Breathe In the Word, Breathe Out Prayer



Would you be able to get through the week on just one breath?

Dane Ortlund, pastor and author of Deeper, compares reading Scripture and praying daily to breathing. Both regular activities are needed to sustain our spiritual life with Jesus.

As we explore Ephesians together on Sundays and at our Gospel and Prayer groups, keep breathing everyday! Use our Read the Bible With Us plan to revisit a passage from Ephesians each day, taking time to read slowly, reflect and pray. What does it show you about Christ and his grace to you? How might it shape your thoughts, priorities or relationships? Turn what you read into prayer.

Taking ownership of our relationship with God means making time each day to breathe in his Word and breathe out in prayer.

Kids & Youth: Read the Bible Together This Advent

Advent is a wonderful opportunity to prepare our hearts for Christmas by spending time in God's word together as a family. Reading the Bible with our children helps them grow in knowing and loving Jesus and reminds us all of the true meaning of Christmas: the birth of our Saviour. Why not use this season to begin (or renew) the habit of reading the Bible together? Here are two great resources to help you:

Christmas Build Up –
Online Advent Calendar

The Christmas Promise –
Advent Calendar

Or talk to Pippie about a resource that will suit your family!

What's Coming Up

16 November	Come and See
17 November	Playtime
19 November	Encounter
22 November	Belonging
29 November	Newish Moring Tea

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

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