

A CHURCH FOR THE FUTURE

St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Week 1

Sunday 19 October 2025

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

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Bible Reading:
Revelation 1:9-20
& 4:1-11 (p. 1236)
- Sermon
- Confession &
Assurance
- Prayers
- Series Video
- Song
- Conclusion

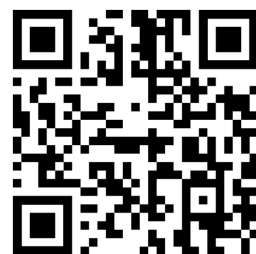
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If you are a visitor please
don't feel obliged to
contribute financially.

Welcome! Today we begin our 7-week Vision Series — exploring what kind of church we long to be: a church **made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ.**



Here on the Lower North Shore, life often revolves around comfort, achievement and control. We prize excellence, stability and the ability to manage life well. Yet Revelation 4 lifts our eyes from our own small kingdoms to the true center of the universe — the throne of God. It shows us a beauty that outshines success and a security that doesn't depend on our performance.

When we see Jesus in His glory, everything else finds its place. Our worship, our community, and our mission all begin with that vision — not of ourselves, but of the One who reigns. May today renew your wonder at His beauty and your joy in His grace.

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 26 October. 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 9 November 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 Jill. Simply reach out – she'd love to chat.

Prayers for the Service

A Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
we confess that we have not honoured Jesus as Lord of our lives.
We have centred our lives on ourselves, not on Him.
Forgive us for dull hearts and distracted worship.
Lift our eyes to Christ, the First and the Last, the Living One.
Amen.

God's Assurance (from Rev 1:17-18)

Leader: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now I am alive for ever and ever."
In Christ, our sins are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Adoration

Leader: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
All: To receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength.

Prayers for our Church

Leader: Fix our eyes on Your throne in heaven.
All: Lord, you are worthy.
Leader: Strengthen us to worship You in spirit and truth.
All: Lord, you are worthy.
Leader: Keep us secure in Christ until the day of His appearing.
All: Lord, you are worthy.

Sermon Notes

A Church for the Future | Revelation 1 & 4

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. Step Out

2. Look Up

Ultimate Power

Ultimate Reality

Ultimate Comfort

3. Bow Down

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening Question

What comes to mind when you think about “glory”?

Going deep in God’s Word

Read Revelation 1:9-20

1. Try to draw out the vision John sees (v. 12-18).
2. What is the current context of John and the Church he’s writing Revelation to (v. 9)? Why do you think God gives him this vision of Jesus and in particular, verses 17-18?

Read Revelation 4:1-11

3. What is described in this passage about the One seated on the throne (v. 2-6, 8, 10-11)?
4. What do you think it means to “lay their crowns before the throne”? How is this picture of creatures bowing down before the throne the gospel response the whole Bible is working towards?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, reflect on the following questions:

1. How does looking up at these visions of God in Revelation 1 and 4 help you bow down before Him in worship? What would that look like for you this week?

2. How does looking up at these visions of God in Revelation 1 and 4 help you step out in faith and sacrifice despite what you're going through right now? What would that look like for you this week?

Read the Bible with us!

Using some of the questions to guide you.

1. What about Jesus's character makes me want to worship Him today?
2. What does Jesus do in this passage that challenges how I live my life currently?

Monday - [Luke 6](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 7](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 8](#)

Thursday - [Luke 9](#)

Friday - [Luke 10](#)

Notices

Ministry Fair

MINISTRY FAIR

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER

THREE REASONS TO JOIN US AFTER
CHURCH AT THE MINISTRY FAIR

1. Celebrate - See and give thanks for all that God is doing through the ministries at St Stephen's.

2. Discover - Explore different stalls, ask questions, and find out where your gifts could be used.



3. Be inspired - Catch the vision for how we can serve together in 2026 with no pressure to sign up for a team.



Notices

Look Who's Coming to Lunch

This is our final weekend to register for the Look Who's Coming to Lunch event. Take the challenging step and sign up to enjoy lunch with others and build new relationships.



Belonging

We'd love you to join us for our Belonging Course — a relaxed lunch, afternoon tea and discussion that helps you discover who we are as a church and how you can be part of it. Our vision is to be a church made beautiful, diverse, and large by the gracious work of Christ, and this course is a great way to see how that vision shapes everything we do. You'll meet some of our team, hear our story, and explore what belonging looks like here. RSVP to Prash or use the Connect Card.

Week of Prayer

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

As God's children, we have so many wonderful reasons to come before God in prayer and as a church, we want to delight in praying boldly to our great and gracious Father because of what the gospel promises us.

This coming week (20-24 October) is Week of Prayer: Monday to Thursday 7:30pm to 8:30pm in the Chapel Hall and Friday 1-2pm. Come along and pray with us!



What's Coming Up

20 October	Come and See
20-24 October	Week of Prayer
26 October	Look who's coming to lunch
26 October	Newish Morning Tea
9 November	Belonging Course

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

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