



Week 2

Sunday 26 October 2025

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

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Reading:
Revelation 2:1-7
& 5:6-14 (p. 1237)
- Series Video
- Sermon
- Confession &
Assurance
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- 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.

Welcome! We're continuing our Vision Series — exploring how God is making us a church that is **beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ.**



Here on the Lower North Shore, many of us build our worth on success, comfort, or belonging to the “right” circles. But Revelation 5 gives us a different centre — a vision of Jesus, the slain Lamb who alone is worthy. He brings together people from every tribe and language into a new family, not through achievement but through His costly love.

When we see Him rightly, our hearts are softened. We no longer measure one another by status or usefulness, but by His grace. That's the kind of church we want to be — not driven by image or performance, but shaped by deep, genuine love for every member, flowing from the Lamb who gave Himself for us.

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 today. 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

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have loved us with an everlasting love.
Yet we confess we have forsaken our first love for You
and failed to love one another.
Forgive us and renew our hearts with Your love.
Amen.

God's Assurance (from Rom 5:8)

Leader: God demonstrates His love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
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: To Him who loves us and freed us by His blood.
All: Be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

Prayers for our Church

Leader: Rekindle our love for Christ.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader: Teach us to love one another as You have loved us.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader: Make our church a foretaste of heaven's gathering.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Sermon Notes

A Church for the Future that Loves Deeply | Revelation 2:1-7 & 5:6-14

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. The Heart of the Church (Rev 2)

2. The Heart of Everything (Rev 5)

Our 5 Year Goal for Community:



3. The Heart of the Future (Rev 5)

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening discussion

From your experience, what makes it difficult to love others?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Revelation 2:1-7

1. What does Jesus commend about the church in Ephesus (Rev 2). What is Jesus's concern about them? What is His warning? What kind of church do you think this looks like?

Read Revelation 5:6-14

2. How is Jesus described in this scene and what emotions does this evoke for you? Why is this significant to Christian worship? How does this worship scene compare with the picture of the church in Ephesus (Rev 2:1-7)?

3. Reflect on Jesus' warning to the Ephesians (Rev 2:5). What role does remembering grace and the Cross (Rev 5) play in rekindling "our first love"?

4. How does seeing the Lamb at the centre of heaven reframe how we see the church on earth? What difference do you think "keeping our first love" would make to the experience of our church life (ie. our experience of gathering together on Sundays, how close our community is, our practical care and love for each other, our concern for the lost etc.)?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time praying together, giving thanks to God, confessing our failings, adoring His love for us.

1. If Jesus walked among our church today, what do you think He'd commend us for? What concerns would He have for us?

2. How can you respond to Christ's call on you this coming week to rekindle the love you had at first?
 - a. In your own personal relationship with Him

 - b. In your relationships with others at church

 - c. In your role within our church life

Read the Bible with us!

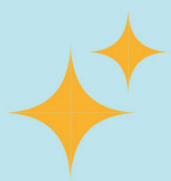
Using some of the questions to guide you.

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?

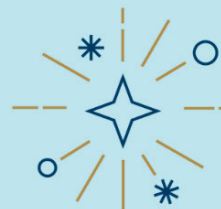
Monday - [Luke 11](#)
Tuesday - [Luke 12](#)
Wednesday - [Luke 13](#)
Thursday - [Luke 14](#)
Friday - [Luke 15](#)

Notices

Serving



SERVING AT ST STEPHEN'S



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." — 1 Peter 4:10

AT ST STEPHEN'S, WE BELIEVE
SERVING IS PART OF HOW WE
WORSHIP JESUS — IT'S A JOYFUL
RESPONSE TO ALL HE'S DONE FOR US.



How to Get Involved in 2026

1. Pray and reflect - Ask God where He might use you best next year.
2. Fill out the Expression of Interest form
3. A ministry leader will be in touch to talk to you more about serving.



Need Help or Have Questions?
Chat with Pippie at the
expression of interest table after
church



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Notices

Newish Morning Tea

Newish Morning Tea is on today after church. If you are new or newish please join us for a great morning tea, chance to meet some of the staff and regulars and get a snapshot of our church.

We want to make it as easy as possible for you!

If you are regular and sitting near a newer person please bring them along.



Half Past Six

We're two weeks into the term at Half Past Six and it's been great welcoming our new Year 5s! This term we're exploring Encounters with Jesus, seeing how meeting him changes lives and what it means for us to know him today.



What's Coming Up

27 October	Come and See
9 November	Belonging Course
16 November	Gift Day
22 November	Working Bee
23 November	Newish Morning Tea

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

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