



Week 5

Sunday 16 November 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 3:14-22
& 18:9-20 (p. 1239)
- Sermon
- Gift Day Video
- Confession &
Assurance
- Prayers
- 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 so glad you've joined us as we continue our Vision Series – exploring how God is **making us beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ**. Let us know how you found the morning by using the connect card.



Here on the Lower North Shore, we live in one of the most prosperous and comfortable parts of Australia. But in Revelation 18, we see the city of Babylon – dazzling, wealthy, admired – crumble in an instant. It's a sobering picture of how fragile our securities truly are.

In contrast, Revelation 19 invites us to a far greater celebration: the wedding feast of the Lamb, where love, joy, and beauty never fade. Christ's generosity toward us changes how we see our own possessions and priorities.

As a church, we long to be known not for accumulation, but for generosity – joyfully giving ourselves, our time, and our resources because we've already received everything in Him.

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 23 November. 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 22 February 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 Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

Prayers for the Service

A Prayer of Confession

Generous God,
we confess that we have at times trusted in wealth
and become lukewarm in our devotion.
Forgive us, clothe us in Christ's righteousness,
and make us rich in grace.
Amen.

God's Assurance (from 2 Cor 8:9)

Leader: Though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that
you through His poverty might become rich.
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: All things come from You, O Lord.
All: And from your gifts we give back to You.

Prayers for our Church

Leader: Teach us cheerful generosity.
All: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
Leader: Guard us from the love of money.
All: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
Leader: Use our resources for the spread of the gospel.
All: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sermon Notes

A church for the future that is radically generous | Rev 3:14-22 & 18:9-20

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. The Tragedy of Lost Love (Rev 3)

2. The Collapse of False Wealth (Rev 18)

Wisdom Failure

Sin Failure

Our 5 Year Goal for Community:



3. The Riches of Christ's Love

Reconciliation

Union

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening discussion

What's something you like hot or cold, but never lukewarm?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Revelation 3:14-22

1. What does Jesus mean when He calls the church in Laodicea “lukewarm” (v. 15-17)? Why do you think Jesus hates this so much?

2. In what ways does this church think it's ‘rich’ (v. 17), and why does Jesus disagree?

Read Revelation 18

3. What do the kings and merchants mourn when Babylon falls (v. 9-19)?

4. How does heaven respond to Babylon's collapse (v. 20)? Compare it with your answer above. What does this reveal to us?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time reflecting on the following questions and praying together.

1. What "values of Babylon" are most tempting for us in our part of Sydney? How can Revelation help you see them more clearly?
2. How does Jesus' great invitation (Rev 3:30) show that true wealth is about a right relationship with Him, and not about material things? How does this challenge and comfort you?
3. Over the next 5 years, what would it look like for our church to grow in joyful, grace-fuelled generosity that helps us reach 400 people and send the gospel further?

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 - [Daniel 1](#)
Tuesday - [Daniel 2](#)
Wednesday - [Daniel 3](#)
Thursday - [Daniel 4](#)
Friday - [Daniel 5](#)

Notices

Carols on the Grass

Wouldn't it be amazing to see 400+ people from our local community on our church site, hearing about the glory of Christ who came to dwell with us? We want to invite the whole local community to celebrate Christmas at Carols on the Grass. There will be markets, live music and carolling, food, and fun for all ages. Who could you bring along this year?

In partnership with Anglicare's Toys 'n' Tucker campaign, our church is collecting food and gifts for those in our city who would otherwise go without. See the flier in this booklet for items you could bring to Carols on the Grass or to chapel hall stage collection area this month.



Join us for
CAROLS
on the grass

Saturday 6 December at 5pm



Book your spot at
st-stephens.com.au



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

**What better way to celebrate
the hope of Christmas than
with carols!**

Join us on Saturday 6 December
at 5pm for *Christmas Markets*
and dinner.

Carols will begin at 6pm, featuring
Willoughby Public School band,
children's activities, and carolling.
The evening will finish at 8pm.

Cost:

\$15 per person
\$5 for children
\$30 for a family

Bring your own picnic blanket and
any additional drinks and snacks.

Notices

Gift Day

This Sunday is our Gift Day — an opportunity to respond to the generosity of Jesus, who gave Himself for us. Our goal is to raise \$60,000 to fuel gospel growth locally and globally: supporting new ministry staff, strengthening next-generation discipleship, and extending mission beyond our walls.

We don't give because we must, but because we're loved. Every gift — large or small — helps us build a church for the future, rich in grace and generosity.

We have over 100 households in our church.

Can we share this task based on prayerful reflection? Include "Gift Day" in the Ref for your Bank Transfer.

Gift Day 16 Nov

Support the life, ministry, and outreach of St Stephen's

REF: GIFTDAY



2025 Target: \$60,000



Fitness for men

Is there anyone you know you could bring along to this?

It's a great chance to connect with men in the local community, build friendships where we can share the hope and joy of Jesus.

FITNESS FOR MEN

community based FREE group

St Stephen's WILLOUGHBY

Saturdays 7-8am

Start your weekend with a workout and coffee

You'll have the support of a trainer while moving at your own pace.

Fitness Boxing and General Strength Training (no experience necessary, BYO boxing gloves & focus pads)

We'll head to a cafe after.

St Stephens Anglican Church Hall, 211 Mowbray Rd, Willoughby





What's Coming Up

17 November	Come and See
20 November	Encounter for Seniors
22 November	Working Bee
23 November	Newish Morning Tea
6 December	Carols on the Grass

Christmas Events

Christmas Eve Family Service 4pm
Christmas Eve Champagne Supper 10pm
Candlelight Readings & Carols 11pm
Christmas Service 9:30am

Home
Find where you truly belong this Christmas

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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