

A CHURCH FOR THE FUTURE

St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Week 6

Sunday 23 November 2025

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

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
Revelation 3:7-13 &
20:11-21:8 (p. 1238)
- Sermon
- Song
- Confession &
Assurance
- Prayers
- Gift Day Video
- 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 to our morning service! Whether this is your first time with us or you've been part of our community for years, we're glad you're here. Today we continue our 7-week vision series, exploring what it means for our church to be **made beautiful, diverse, and large by the gracious work of Jesus.**



In Revelation 20:11–21:8, John paints a vivid picture of God's final justice and the ultimate hope of heaven. In a culture like ours here on Sydney's Lower North Shore—where success, comfort, and self-reliance often dominate—this passage reminds us that true security and joy are found only in Christ.

Our vision is a response to this world: we want to be a church where every person prioritises sharing the good news of Jesus, bringing the beauty, wonder, and hope of his kingdom into our homes, workplaces, and neighbourhoods.

Let us know how you found church by chatting with staff, a regular or filling in the connect card.

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 30 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

Lord Jesus,
You open a door that none can shut.
We confess our timidity and silence,
our failure to speak the hope of the gospel.
Forgive us and make us bold in witness.
Amen.

God's Assurance (from Acts 1:8)

Leader: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses."

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: Salvation belongs to our God.
All: And to the Lamb who sits on the throne.

Prayers for our Church

Leader: Open doors for the gospel.
All: Lord, work through us.
Leader: Make us bold to speak of Christ.
All: Lord, work in us.
Leader: Gather Your church from every nation.
All: Lord, work for your glory.

Sermon Notes

A church for the future that is open & alive | Rev 3:7-13 & 20:11-21:8

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. The Open Door for the Church

2. The Eternal Shape of Evangelism

The hope in sharing our faith

The content we share

Our 5 Year Goal for Community:



3. The Urgency of Eternity

Hell is terrible and real

Heaven is unimaginable but true

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening discussion

Share one thing that has been encouraging/eye-opening for you in our Revelation series so far.

Going deep in God's Word

Read Revelation 3:7-13 and 20:11-21:27

1. Everyone “great and small” stands before God’s throne. What does this teach us about the universality of God’s judgment? How does this differ from how people think about accountability/fairness?
2. What is the difference between the “books” where works are recorded (Rev 20:12) and the “Book of Life” (see also Rev 3:5 and 1 John 5:5)? How does this help us understand why grace not moral performance is the basis of salvation?
3. Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire (Rev 20:14)—what does this image communicate about God’s final victory over sin and death?
4. What contrasts do you see between the blessings promised to those who “overcome” (Rev 21:1-7) and the fate of those listed in verse 8?

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. There is a contrast between God's sobering judgment (Rev 20:11-15) and breathtaking hope (21:1-8). How do these two pictures together, not just one, create a healthier, more urgent and more compassionate approach to our evangelism?
2. Where do you think our evangelism most often stalls among Christians in our Lower North Shore context (ie. Fear, busyness, embarrassment, pluralism, lack of relational depth)? What mindset does our church need and do you need if we are to reach others with the gospel so our church grows to 300-400?
3. Our 5-year hope is to see around 5% of our church come to Christ each year. If we lived as though Revelation 20-21 were real and coming, what concrete habits or behaviours might need to change both for you and our church?

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 6](#)
Tuesday - [Daniel 7](#)
Wednesday - [Daniel 8](#)
Thursday - [Daniel 9](#)
Friday - [Daniel 10](#)

Notices

Carols on the Grass

Imagine this: around 400 people from our neighbourhood gathered on our church lawn, hearing the good news of Jesus who came to dwell with us. What a joy that would be!

This Christmas, we're inviting our whole community to Carols on the Grass—an afternoon and evening of markets, live music, carolling, great food, and fun for all ages. It's the perfect opportunity to bring a friend, a neighbour, or a family member along. Who could you invite this year? Don't forget to book your spot!

We're also partnering with Anglicare's Toys 'n' Tucker to show generosity to those in our city who might otherwise go without this Christmas. You can bring food or gifts either to Carols on the Grass or to the Chapel Hall stage collection area over the next few weeks. Check out the list of suggested items in the flier in your booklet.

Join us for
CAROLS
on the grass

Saturday 6 December at 5pm



Book your spot at
st-stephens.com.au



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.

Serving at Carols

To make our Carols happen, we need a team of volunteers to help things run smoothly on the day. If you're able to serve—whether for setup, welcoming, kids' activities, or pack-up—please fill out the Connect Card and let us know.



Notices

Gift Day

A church for the future gives like it believes in heaven. We have the opportunity to start putting that conviction into practice as we come to this year's Ministry Gift Day. Our target is \$60k shared across our ~100 households. Gift Day will help us prepare to bring a 4th paid staff member on to the team in 2027, do larger scale property works (i.e. the shade sails) and keep expanding our ministries to the surrounding community. To give visit st-stephens.com.au/give



Stories of people turning to Christ

Some stories of how God has been bringing people back to Him.

- A local couple noticed our sign and began watching our services online. Eventually they joined us in person and over-time, hearing God's Word and connecting with others at church, came to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
- A parent who first heard about God from their grandparent, reconnected and came along to our church through a neighbour. As they became friends with other parents and started reading the Bible together, they prayed asking Jesus to come into their life.
- Three people completely unknown to each other and each from different walks of life, came along to the Lunar New Year Banquet. They then continued together in the Alpha course—each indicating that they had accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour. They continued together reading John's Gospel weekly at the Come and See course.
- Another parent heard about our church from a close friend. After some years they attended Playtime Alpha and they opened their heart to Jesus in faith. Now they're reading John's Gospel with others every week at church.



Praise God!

What's Coming Up

24 November Come and See
30 November Newish Morning Tea
6 December Carols on the Grass
14 December Confirmation service
14 December Leader lunch

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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