



Week 7

Sunday 30 November 2025

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

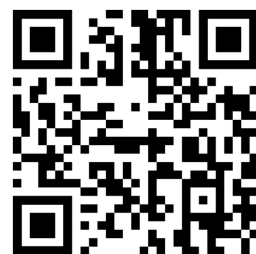
- Welcome
- Songs
- Farewell Spotlight
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Bible Reading:
Revelation 2:8-11 &
22:1-21 (p. 1237)
- Vision Series Video
- Sermon
- Confession &
Assurance
- Prayers
- Song
- Conclusion

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.

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

Welcome! We're so glad you're here as we finish our 7-week Vision Series. Our hope is to become a church **made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ** – a church where every person keeps growing spiritually to the very end.



Connect Card

Revelation 22 gives us a breathtaking picture of the world we're all longing for: a city of life, healing, joy and unbroken fellowship with God. Here on the Lower North Shore, we often try to build our own version of that life – through comfort, achievement, financial security or carefully curated experiences. Yet none of these can offer what the river of life in Revelation brings: deep renewal, lasting hope and a future that cannot fade.

Jesus invites us into that life now. As we gather today, we're reminded that spiritual growth isn't striving harder but drawing nearer to Him – the One who makes all things new.

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 7 December. 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

Faithful God,
You call us to endure in suffering.
We confess our impatience, our wavering devotion,
and our neglect of prayer and Your Word.
Forgive us and renew our hearts,
that we may be faithful unto death.
Amen.

God's Assurance (from Lam 3:22-23)

Leader: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.
All: Great is your faithfulness Lord.

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: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
All: He restores my soul.

Prayers for our Church

Leader: Deepen our devotion to prayer and your Word.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader: Strengthen us as we endure trials.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader: Keep us until we see Your face in glory.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Sermon Notes

A church for the future that endures to the end | Rev 2:8-11; 22:1-21

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. Maturity = Endurance

Faithfulness to the end

The pain / pleasure worldview

2. Use the Tools

The means of grace

Our 5 Year Goal for Community:



3. Eyes for Glory

Spiritual Sight

Destination by invitation

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening discussion

Go around the room and share: what's one thing God has grown you in this year from His Word?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Revelation 22:1-21

1. Describe the picture John gives us of the future (v. 1-5). What images from Genesis 1-2 does this echo? Why is that significant do you think?
2. What does Jesus repeatedly emphasize about His return (v. 6-13)? How should this shape Christian urgency?
3. What is the meaning of the invitation in verse 17? Who is invited and what does this reveal about God?
4. What warnings are given in verses 18 and 19? How do these reinforce the reliability and authority of Scripture?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

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

1. What does Revelation 22 reveal about what “spiritual maturity” really is? How is this different from the common ‘Sydney North Shore view’ of maturity maybe as competence, productivity, achievement?
2. Which forms of suffering, pressure or distraction most threaten your endurance at the moment? How does the vision of Revelation 22 re-orient your hopes?
3. What would it look like for your group to actively help each other endure over the next 12 months? What habits, rhythms, or relationships might you build?

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 11](#)
Tuesday – [Daniel 12](#)
Wednesday – [Isaiah 11:1-10](#)
Thursday – [Isaiah 40:1-11](#)
Friday – [Isaiah 53](#)

Notices

Carols on the Grass

We're praying for 400 people from our neighbourhood coming onto our church grounds, hearing the good news of Jesus who came to dwell with us. That's why we're running Carols on the Grass. Throughout the afternoon and evening there will be Christmas markets, live music, carols from our church music team and also Willoughby Public School band, great food, and fun for all ages. Who could you invite?

We're also partnering with Toys 'n' Tucker to support those in need. Bring food or gifts to Carols or to the Chapel Hall collection area this month.

Are you able to loan us tables and gazebos for Carols? The gazebos are for shade for our guests and tables are to supplement the white tressle tables we already have. Please let us know via the connect card.



Volunteers Thank You Lunch

Join us for our Volunteers Thank You Lunch on Saturday, 14th December, 11:45am-1pm — a joyful time to look back on all God has done in and through our incredible volunteers this year. Enjoy a special lunch, fun moments, and heartfelt thanks.

Please RSVP — we can't wait to celebrate together!



RSVP

Notices

Finances

Thank you to those who have already contributed to this year's Gift Day. So far 30 households have partnered financially in Gift Day. Gift Day allows us to invest in property upgrades that make our ministry better. We have just completed works on outdoor spaces at a cost of \$23,000.

The works will allow Gumnuts (creche program) to use the outdoors even when it's been wet or very sunny - accommodating the growth we have experienced in 0-5s. Playtime and morning teas are substantially improved by the shade sail near the cubby house.



Youth Leader Call

In 2026, we need six new youth leaders to simply run the ministries we already have. For years, we've relied mainly on staff and trainees, but we now need committed church members to step in and walk alongside our teenagers, caring for them, opening the Bible with them, and pointing them to Jesus. Please pray, and genuinely consider whether you could serve.



Even if it feels unlikely or costly, ask the Lord: Should I lead youth next year?

If you would like to know more, please speak to Pippie at children@st-stephens.com.au

What's Coming Up

6 December	Carols on the Grass
7 December	Newish Morning Tea
14 December	Volunteers Lunch
21-25 January	LiT Camp
27 January	Crafternoon

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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