



Week 1

Sunday 7 December 2025

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

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Reading: Isa 9:2-7; Luke 2:8-14; Titus 2:11-14 (p. 687)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
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If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Welcome! We're so glad you've joined us today as we begin our Advent series, **Grace has Appeared**. Advent invites us to slow down and look again at the heart of Christianity: not an idea, not a philosophy, but a person. Titus 2:11 tells us that "the grace of God has appeared"—not in abstract form, but in Jesus Himself.



Connect Card

We often treat "grace" like a pleasant sentiment or seasonal mood. But the Bible shows us something far more profound: grace is the living, breathing kindness of God breaking into our world in Christ. He is the one who saves, transforms, and sustains His people all the way to the end.

As a church, we long to be made beautiful, diverse, and large by His gracious work—and to keep growing spiritually as we wait for His return. We're so glad you're here to explore that hope with us today.

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 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

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We confess that we have wandered from your way:
we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit
that we may live as disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

Words of Assurance

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.
Titus 2:11

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

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.

Sermon Notes

Grace has appeared in a person | Titus 2:11, Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:8-14

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Without God there's no Grace (Titus 2:11)

2. Grace drives what God does (Isaiah 9:2-7)

3. The Glory of God's Grace (Luke 2:8-14)

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening discussion

What attributes do people (who may or may not be Christian) associate with God (eg. Power, love, justice etc.)?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Titus 2:11

1. How significant is Paul's choice of the word "grace" (Titus 2:11) compared to other options he could have used?
2. What difference does it make for you that the God of the Bible is a God of grace? What difference does it make for your understanding of your own salvation? What difference does it make for your ongoing relationship with Him?

Read Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-14

3. How does God's grace help us understand the Christmas story afresh? Where do you see God's grace in these passages?
4. How does seeing that God's grace is behind His salvation plan make the angels' praise even more worthy (Luke 2:14)?

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. Share a moment in your life where you were struck by the grace of God to you.
2. What do you think are going to be distractions for you this coming Christmas season from seeing and appreciating God's grace to us in Christ?
3. How can you worship God daily this coming Christmas season for who He is and what He has done for you?

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 - [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

Tuesday - [Ezekiel 34:11-24](#)

Wednesday - [Micah 5:2-5](#)

Thursday - [Zechariah 9:9-10](#)

Friday - [Zechariah 13:1-9](#)

Notices

Kids & Youth Ministry break

What a wonderful year it's been!

Our Friday programs wrapped up last week with joyful Christmas celebrations, and Playtime finishes on Tuesday the 9th. These ministries will restart with the new school term.

Our Sunday Kids and Youth programs will continue right up to Christmas.

Praise God for the beautiful ways He has worked—kids and families learning about Jesus for the first time and exploring the Christian faith.



Volunteers Thank You Lunch

Praise God! This year, we have seen people welcomed, loved, grown in their faith, and come to know Jesus.



This is only possible because God has worked through the 100+ volunteers who serve so faithfully at our church.

Next Sunday we will be celebrating our ministry teams for all their hard work. We'll enjoy delicious pulled pork, reflect on an amazing year, and celebrate all that God has done among us. Please RSVP via the QR code.



RSVP

Notices

Confirmation service

On Sunday 14 December we will be confirming Evie Chase at our 6pm Service. Bishop Chris Edwards will be preaching at the service. Come and join us for this special celebration of God's kindness in Evie's life.

Christmas

This Christmas our theme is the appearance of God's grace.

We have 3 options:

(1) Christmas Eve Family Service at 4pm with BBQ after. This 45min service caters well for families with younger kids.



(2) Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols at 11pm with a Champagne Supper prior - a great way to introduce Christmas to someone who appreciates reflection amidst the busyness of the season.



(3) Christmas Day at 9:30am - give them the taste of the full church family, much like our normal Sunday Services.



What's Coming Up

14 December	Volunteers Lunch
21-25 January	LiT Camp
27 January	Crafternoon
30 January	Friday Kids BBQ
1 February	Little Day In

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 summer at St Stephen's, visit
st-stephens.com.au/summer

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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