



Week 2

Sunday 14 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
- Bible Readings:
Mic 6:6-8; Rom 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-14 (p. 932)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Song
- Lord's Supper
- 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 so glad you've joined us today for 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 22 February. 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 1 March 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 those not sharing in Lord's Supper

Participation in the Lord's Supper is for those who have professed faith in Jesus - it's a powerful and important symbol of the Christian message. As such we want to encourage those who are still exploring the Christian faith to feel free to remain in their seats when others move to the front to receive the Lord's Supper. During that time you may want to reflect on the sermon or Bible reading. You may also want to pray one of these prayers below.

Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me who you are. Give me an understanding of you that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayers adapted from Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York.

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 that changes us | Titus 2:12, Micah 6:6-8, Rom 12:1-2

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. “With what shall I come before the Lord?": The problem with religious change (Micah 6:6-8)

2. “in view of God’s mercy”: The problem of no change (Rom 12:1-2)

3. “It teaches us”: God does change us by grace (Titus 2:12)

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening discussion

What's something you've tried to change about yourself—through routines, courses, self-discipline, or even 'religious effort'—that didn't really work?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Titus 2:11-14

1. How does salvation link to grace? How does grace link to the coming of Christ (v. 11)? How central and unique is grace to who God is?
2. How does God's grace lead to a changed life (v. 12)? How is this different to change through education, self-effort/discipline, religion?
3. Describe what the transformed life God want us to live is (v. 12-13).
4. Why does Paul retell the gospel in verse 14?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, reflect on the past year and whether you've grown as a follower of Jesus or not.

Which error are you more in danger of falling into?

1. "I don't see the need to change or grow as a Christian because I'm already saved by God's grace."

2. "I am trying to change all through my own efforts (ie. my discipline, my initiative, my motivation)."

Both these errors make light of God's grace to us in Christ. Spend some time in prayer and confessing to our gracious God.

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 - [Malachi 1](#)
Tuesday - [Malachi 2](#)
Wednesday - [Malachi 3](#)
Thursday - [Malachi 4](#)
Friday - [Isaiah 9:1-7](#)

Notices

Nikita's Farewell

Over the past three years, Nikita has been doing MTS (Ministry Training Strategy). As she finishes her training, she will be moving to St Mark's Darling Point next year to serve as their Kids and Youth Minister. Nikita has played a significant role in the life of our church, especially among our youth, and while we are sad to see her go, we know she will be a wonderful blessing to her new church family. On Sunday 21st, we will farewell her and pray for her as we send her into this new season of ministry. Her final Sunday with us will be the 28th.



Volunteers Thank You Lunch



After church today we have our Volunteers Thank You Lunch! We'd love to celebrate all God has done through you this year with a relaxed, delicious lunch and warm company. Kids are very welcome. If you haven't RSVPed but would like to come, please chat to Pippie.

Notices

Christmas

Christmas is one of the easiest and most meaningful times to extend an invitation. People are often more open and willing to step into church than at any other time of year. Our Christmas services are a warm, welcoming space to reflect on the hope Jesus brings. Join us for:

Christmas Eve

- 4 pm Family Service,
- 10 pm Champagne Supper, and 11 pm Candlelight Readings and Carols

Christmas Day

- 9:30 am Community Service



Let's prayerfully look for opportunities to invite friends, family, neighbours, and colleagues. A simple invitation could open the door for someone to encounter the message of Christmas.



What's Coming Up

- 24 December Christmas Eve Family Service 4pm
- 24 December Christmas Eve Champagne Supper 10pm
- 24 December Candlelight Readings & Carols 11pm
- 25 December Christmas Service 9:30am
- 21-25 January LiT Camp

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

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