



Week 3

Sunday 21 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
- Bondi - Bible & Prayer Moment
- Lam 3:19-27; Titus 2:11-14; James 5:7-8 (p. 823)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Nikita Farewell
- 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 gather today with heavy hearts after the terrible events at Bondi this week. Our sense of safety has been shaken, and many of us come with questions, fear, grief, or quiet anger. If that's you, you're not alone.

As we continue our Advent series, **Grace Appeared**, Titus 2 reminds us that God's grace meets us not in ideal circumstances, but in a broken world. Grace enables us to wait – not by denying evil or pain, but by anchoring us to Jesus, who has entered suffering and promises to return to make all things new.

Here on the Lower North Shore, we often rely on security, stability, and control. Moments like this expose how fragile those things really are. Advent gently redirects our hope to Christ – our strong deliverer – and trains us to keep growing spiritually, even through hardship.

We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by His gracious work, waiting together in hope until the end.



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 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 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

Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have gone our own way,
and rejected your will for our lives.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you,
and to please you in every way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed...
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

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 keeps us enduring | Lam 3:21-26, Titus 2:11-14, James 5:7-8

Preacher: Emlyn Hoyt

1. Waiting is central to our identity

2. Waiting is an intentional action



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Open Door

4 • 11 • 18 • 25 January 2026

Open Door to Life

What if there's more to life than we've settled for? (No 6pm service)

Open Door to Truth

What if Christianity is more plausible than you thought?

Open Door to Grace

What if the problem with the world (and us) has a solution?

Open Door to the Resurrection

What if death isn't the end?

The new year is a chance to take
a fresh look at Christianity.

Join us for our Summer sermon
series!

9:30am & 6pm Sundays



INTERVIEW WITH NIKITA

As Nikita finishes up her time with us here at St Stephen's, we asked her to share some reflections with us.

What has been a highlight of these past three years?

One of the biggest highlights has been walking alongside the youth of our church and seeing how they've grown. Being able to answer their questions, read the Bible, and pray with them has been such a joy. Each young person has been a privilege to lead, and it's been incredibly encouraging to see them put Jesus at the centre of their lives.

What is one of the biggest things you've learnt during MTS?

One of the biggest things I've learnt during MTS is the importance of prayerful dependence on God. As I've run ministries, tried new things, and seen new youth come along, I've been reminded again and again that prayer is vital in everything we do.

Do you have any specific hopes for the youth ministry at St Stephen's?

I'm so thankful to God for the way he has been growing the youth at St Stephen's. My hope and prayer is that the ministry would continue to grow as young people boldly share Jesus with their friends and neighbours.

What are you excited for in your new role?

I'm excited to be starting at St Mark's, for new friendships and to apply what I've learnt over the past three years to see kids' and youth ministry flourish in Darling Point.

How can we pray for you?

I'd love prayer during this season of change, that God would remind me that he is with me and that I can trust in his control. Please also pray for my new church and ministries I'll be part of, that I'll settle in quickly and find joy in the Lord as I serve.



Notices

Thanksgiving for outreach

We give thanks to God for around ten people who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour this year.

We praise Him for His saving work and pray they would continue well in the faith, trusting that the Lord will complete the good work He has begun in them.



Thanksgiving for Kids & Youth

We give thanks to God for his wonderful work in our Kids and Youth ministry this year.

We praise him for over **65 kids** and youth who don't regularly attend church coming through our midweek programs.



We rejoice that **two Playtime parents accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour**, that **two Friday Kids received their first Bibles** and are reading them at home, that **HPS grew from 5 to 9**, for Evie's confirmation, and for the many faithful leaders and helpers God has provided.



Notices

Thanksgiving for serving and growing

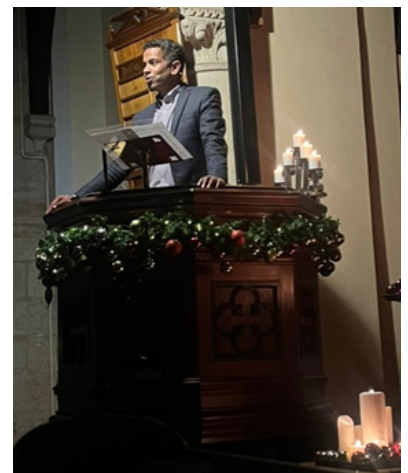
We give thanks to God for his work in serving across our church. We praise him for 97 people serving across 28 teams, for new people stepping into ministry, and for the care and love shown within teams. We thank God for the ministry taking place that allows new people to be welcomed and for regulars to be grown and strengthened in faith. Scan the QR code to watch a recap video.



Christmas

To celebrate the birth of our Lord, we have three distinct services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day:

- **Christmas Eve Family Service (4PM):** Designed for children aged 18 months to 10 years, perfect for regular and guest young families.
- **11PM Christmas Eve Service:** Reflective with carols and candlelight, preceded by a relaxed Champagne Supper for introducing friends to St Stephen's.
- **Christmas Day Service (9:30AM):** A celebration similar to our regular Sundays, showcasing a diverse range of ages and stages. Sermons will vary between the two days.



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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