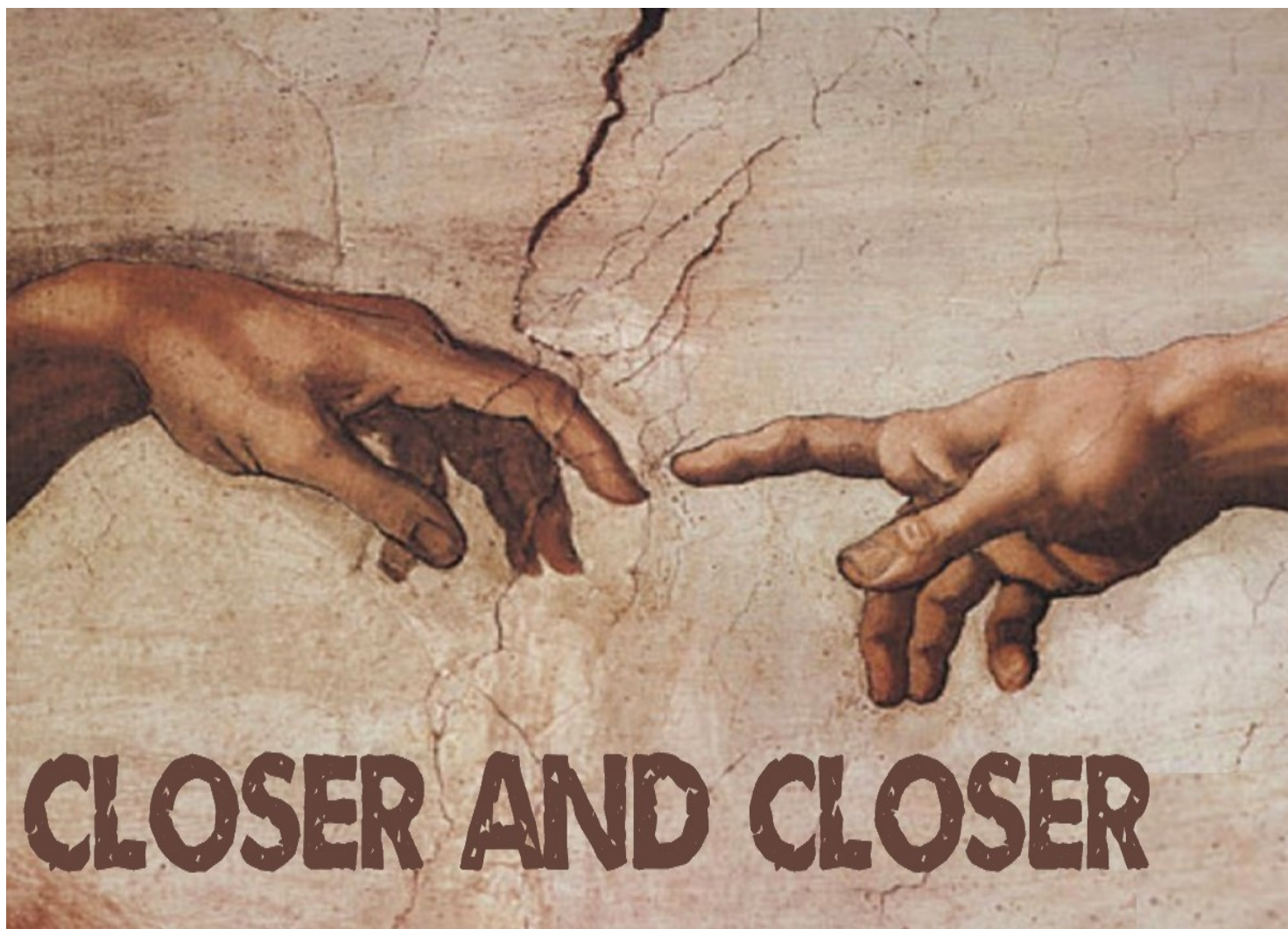




ST. STEPHEN'S
united methodist church



“The Air We Breathe”
Acts 17:22-28; John 14:15-21

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

11:00 am

WELCOME

Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe
Senior Pastor

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

Majesty
(by Jack Hayford)

Dr. Andreea Mut
Accompanist

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 66)

Alisa and Ian Tackett

One: Shout joyfully to God, all the earth!
Sing praises to the glory of God's name!
All: Bless God! He does not reject my prayer.
He does not withhold his faithful love from me.
One: All you nations, bless our God!
Let the sound of his praise be heard!
All: Bless God! He does not reject my prayer.
He does not withhold his faithful love from me.
One: God preserved us among the living;
He didn't let our feet slip a bit.
All: Bless God! He does not reject my prayer.
He does not withhold his faithful love from me.

*HYMN

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Rev. Suzi Byrd
Pastor of Music and Worship

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place*

*Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place*

*AFFIRMATION

St. Stephen's Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God who claims us as beloved children
whose love unites us when the world would divide us.
We believe in Jesús Christ our living Savior and example
whose love knows no bounds.
We believe in the Holy Spirit who empowers and enables us to transform the world,
who speaks through the stories of scripture to transform our own stories.
We believe in the Church who is the body of Christ,
and does not belong to us, whose work cannot be contained by a building.
We worship God together proclaiming God's love for us and our love for God and each other.
We act in God's name, knowing God is at work all around us, calling us to join in,
claiming us all as beloved.**

*GLORIA PATRI

Suzi

PRAYER

Nathan

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Steven Fisher
Director of Family Ministries

*HYMN

Breathe
(by Marie Barnett)

Suzi

*This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence living in me
This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word spoken to me*

*And I I'm desperate for You
And I I'm lost without You
And I I'm desperate for You
And I I'm lost without You*

*This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence living in me
This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word spoken to me*

*And I I'm desperate for You
And I I'm lost without You
And I I'm desperate for You
And I I'm lost without You*

*And I I'm desperate for You
And I I'm lost without You
And I I'm desperate for You
And I I'm lost without You*

*This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe*

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 17:22-28; John 14:15-21

Brody and Caroline Leffler

Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. 23 As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.' What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples made with human hands. 25 Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. 26 From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn't far away from any of us. 28 In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are his offspring.'

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. 17 This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you. 18 "I won't leave you as orphans. I will come to you. 19 Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

*SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

One: Inspired words for beloved people.

All: Lord, transform us through its hearing.

SERMON

“The Air We Breathe”

Nathan

OFFERING PRAYER

*You can give using your smartphone!
Text a dollar amount to 84321 and select St. Stephen's.*

OFFERING

Our Communion offering for the month of May will go to Wesley Community Center.

OFFERTORY

Grace
(arranged by Mark Hayes)

Suzi
Sung by Houston's Virtual Choir

*DOXOLOGY

Suzi

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Nathan

*CLOSING HYMN

Because He Lives

Suzi

*God sent His Son they called Him Jesus
He came to love heal and forgive
He bled and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives
**Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives***

*How sweet to hold our newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy he gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because he lives
**Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives***

*And then one day I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then as death gives way to vict'ry
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns
**Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives***

*BENEDICTION

Nathan

POSTLUDE

*To God Be the Glory
(arranged by Fred Bock)*

Andreea

***Please stand in body or in spirit.**



To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

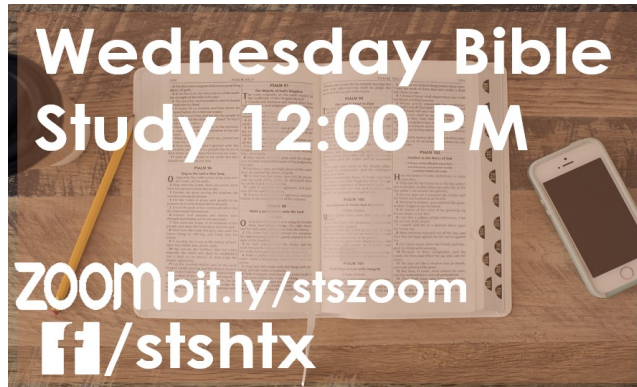


FEAST

Sundays following 11 AM Worship
bit.ly/stshtxzoom

Virtual Potluck

Until We Meet Again



Wednesday Bible Study 12:00 PM

zoom bit.ly/stszoom
f [/stshtx](https://www.facebook.com/stshtx)



Devotionals

Sign up at
bit.ly/stsdevo

FURLOUGH KITCHEN

HOUSTON

FURLOUGHKITCHENHOUSTON.ORG

Houston's Virtual Choir

[f /stshtx](https://www.facebook.com/stshtx)




ST. STEPHEN'S
 united methodist church

Music Fellowship
 Wednesdays at 730 PM

zoom



You can give using your smart phone!

Text a dollar amount to 84321 and select St. Stephen's, or go to stshtx.org/give.



May Communion
 Offering:
 Wesley Community
 Center

Join Us!

St. Stephen's is a church with an exciting vision for loving God and our neighbors. If you want to learn more about our church, more about who Jesus is and why that matters, or just about anything else, Nathan would love to meet with you! Call or text him at 512.771.2741 to make an appointment.

How to reach St. Stephen's

2003 W.43rd Street, Houston, TX, 77018
 (713) 686-8241 | stshtx.org

