



**ST. STEPHEN'S**  
united methodist church



**“Bearing Witness”**  
**Acts 1:6-14**

**May 24, 2020**

# Seventh Sunday of Easter

11:00 am

WELCOME

Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe  
Senior Pastor

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*  
(by John Purifoy)

Dr. Andreea Mut  
Accompanist

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 46)

Madison Schlageter

One: We won't be afraid when our world falls apart!

**All: God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble.**

One: We won't be afraid when the mountains crumble into the center of the sea.

**All: God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble.**

One: We won't be afraid when the sea's waters roar and rage.

**All: God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble.**

One: We won't be afraid when the mountains shake because of the sea's surging waves.

**All: God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble.  
We won't be afraid!**

\*HYMN

*How Great Thou Art*  
(stanzas 1,2 & 4)

Rev. Suzi Byrd  
Pastor of Music and Worship

*O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

\*AFFIRMATION

St. Stephen's Affirmation of Faith

Madison Schlageter

**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

*Who'll Be A Witness for My Lord*

Suzi

*Who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord*

*My soul is a witness for my Lord  
My soul is a witness for my Lord  
My soul is a witness for my Lord  
My soul is a witness for my Lord*

*Who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord*

*Metuselah was a witness for my Lord  
Metuselah was a witness for my Lord  
Metuselah was a witness for my Lord  
Metuselah was a witness for my Lord*

*Who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord*

*O, Samson was a witness for my Lord  
Samson was a witness for my Lord  
Samson was a witness for my Lord  
Samson was a witness for my Lord*

*Now, Daniel was a witness for my Lord  
Daniel was a witness for my Lord  
Daniel was a witness for my Lord  
Daniel was a witness for my Lord*

*O, who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord  
Who'll be a witness for my Lord*

*My soul is a witness for my Lord  
My soul is a witness for my Lord  
My soul is a witness for my Lord  
My soul is a witness for my Lord*

6 As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?" 7 Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. 11 They said, "Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven." 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus' son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James' son— 14 all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

\*SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

One: Inspired words for beloved people.

All: Lord, transform us through its hearing.

SERMON

**"Bearing Witness"**

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

*Christ Has Broken Down the Wall  
(by Mark Miller)*

Suzi  
Sung by Houston's Virtual Choir  
Caroline Leffler, Soloist

\*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

*We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*

Suzi

*We've a story to tell to the Nations that shall turn their hearts to the right,  
a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.  
For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;  
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.*

*We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,  
a song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and sword, and shatter the spear and sword.  
For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;  
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.*

*We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above  
hath sent us his Son to save us, and show us that God is love, and show us that God is love.  
For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;  
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.*

*We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow hath trod,  
that all of the world's great peoples might come to the truth of God, might come to the truth of God.  
For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;  
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.*

\*BENEDICTION

Nathan

POSTLUDE

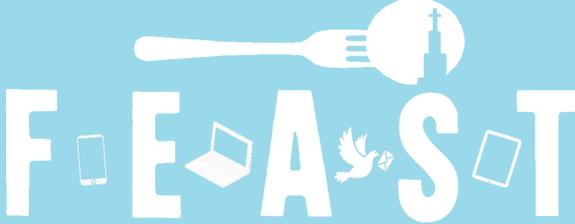
*O Rest in the Lord  
(by Felix Mendelssohn)*

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](http://bit.ly/stshtxzoom)

Virtual Potluck

*Until We Meet Again*



**Wednesday Bible Study 12:00 PM**

ZOOM [bit.ly/stszoom](http://bit.ly/stszoom)  
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**Devotionals**

Sign up at  
[bit.ly/stsdevo](http://bit.ly/stsdevo)

**FURLOUGH KITCHEN HOUSTON**

[FURLOUGHKITCHENHOUSTON.ORG](http://FURLOUGHKITCHENHOUSTON.ORG)

**Houston's Virtual Choir**

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




**THE COMMON MARKET TEXAS**

Delivering local food for the common good.



**ST. STEPHEN'S**  
 united methodist church

**Music Fellowship**  
 Wednesdays at 730 PM

zoom



**Wesley COMMUNITY CENTER**

**May Communion Offering:**  
 Wesley Community Center

**You can give using your smart phone!**

Text a dollar amount to 84321 and select St. Stephen's, or go to [stshtx.org/give](http://stshtx.org/give).

**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](http://stshtx.org)

