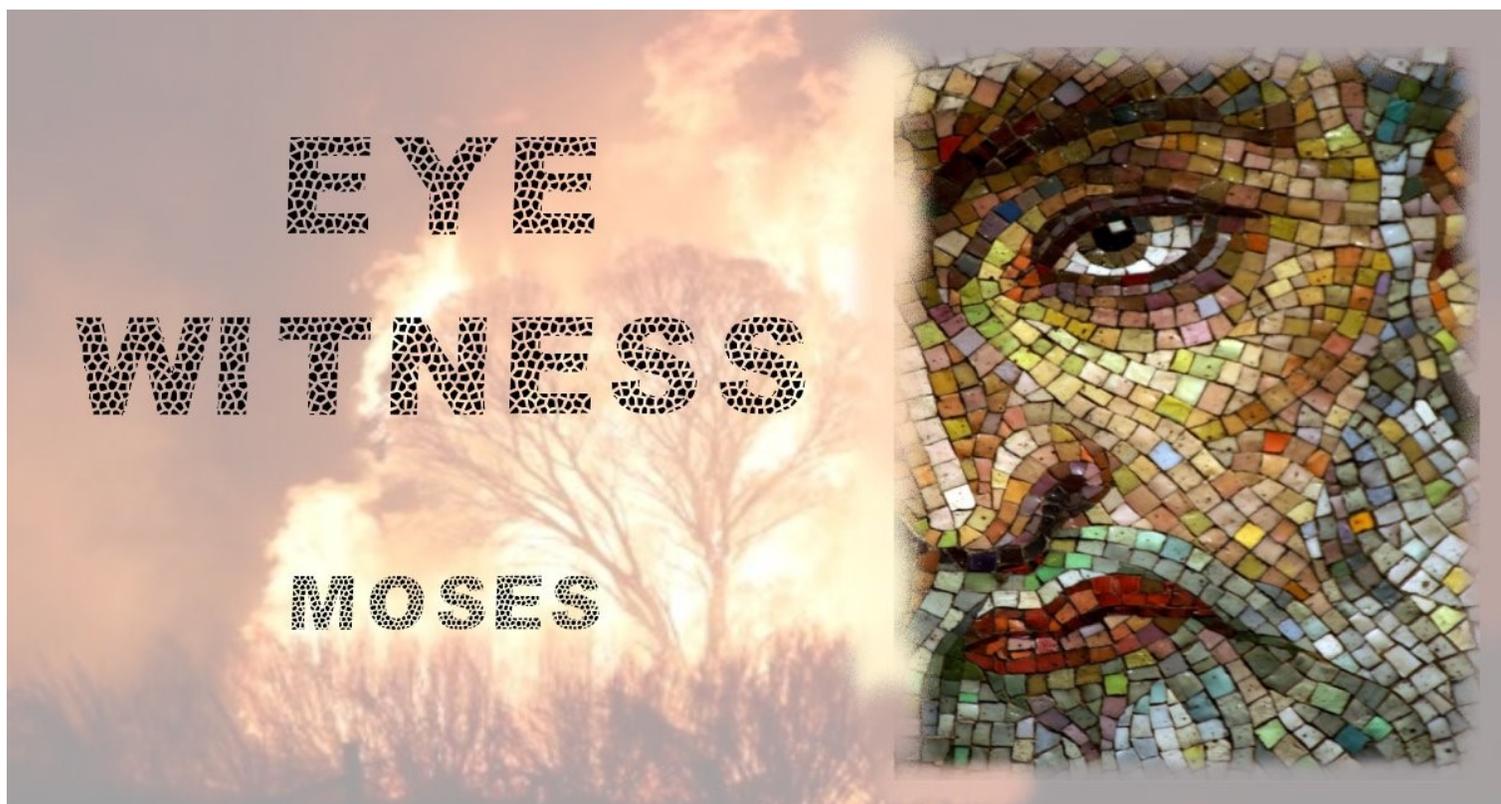




**ST. STEPHEN'S**  
united methodist church



**“Eye Witness: Moses”**  
**Exodus 3: 1-15**

**April 18, 2021**

# Third Sunday of Easter

11:00 am

WELCOME

Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe,  
Senior Pastor

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

*Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*  
(by Arthur Seymour Sullivan)

Dr. Andreea Muț, Accompanist

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 4 MSG)

Ginny Martin, Liturgist

Leader: When we call, give us answers. Once, in a tight place, you gave us room.

**People: We have God's more-than-enough.**

Leader: You listen the split second we call and let our hearts do the talking.

**People: We have God's more-than-enough.**

Leader: Why is everyone hungry for *more*? "More, more" they say. "More, more".

**People: We have God's more-than-enough.**

Leader: Because of God, we have more joy in one ordinary day.

**People: We have God's more-than-enough.**

Leader: For you, God, have put our lives back together.

**People: We have God's more-than-enough. Praise God, Amen!**

\*HYMN

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
(Sung by Houston Virtual Choir)

Rev. Suzi Byrd and Rev. Heather Velez,  
Pastoral Music and Worship Team

*Come Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.*

*Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help i'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.*

\*AFFIRMATION

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

Ginny

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

Suzi

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Steven Fisher, Family Ministries Director

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**

\*SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3: 1-15

Ginny Martin, Reader

3 Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. 2 The Lord's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. 3 Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up. 4 When the Lord saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" Moses said, "I'm here." 5 Then the Lord said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." 6 He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God. 7 Then the Lord said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. 8 I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. 9 Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. 10 So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12 God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

God's Special Name

13 But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'" 15 God continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.

\*SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Ginny

One: Inspired words for beloved people.

All: **Lord, transform us through its hearing.**

SERMON

**"Eye Witness: Moses"**

Nathan

OFFERING PRAYER AND INVITATION

*Those wishing to commit their lives to Christ are invited to contact Pastor Nathan at 512-771-2741.*

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

*Our Communion offering for April will go to UM ARMY.*

OFFERTORY

*10,000 Reasons  
(Sung by Houston Virtual Choir)*

Suzi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nathan

\*BENEDICTION

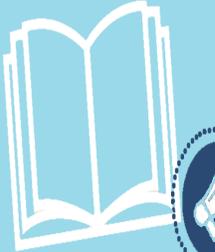
*Blessed Assurance*  
(Sung by Houston Virtual Choir)

1. *Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!*  
*Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*  
***This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;***  
***this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.***
  
2. *Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;*  
*angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*  
***This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;***  
***this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.***
  
3. *Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,*  
*watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.*  
***This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;***  
***this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.***

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



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



**A NEW DIRECTORY**

Update your information:  
[stsumc.churchcenter.com/directory/people](http://stsumc.churchcenter.com/directory/people)



Sign up at:  
<http://bit.ly/stsflowers>

**Altar Flowers**

**Houston Virtual Choir**



**F E A S T**

Sundays following 11 AM Worship  
[bit.ly/stshtxzoom](http://bit.ly/stshtxzoom)

Virtual Potluck

*Until We Meet Again*



**Communion Offering  
for April:  
U M ARMY**

**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)

