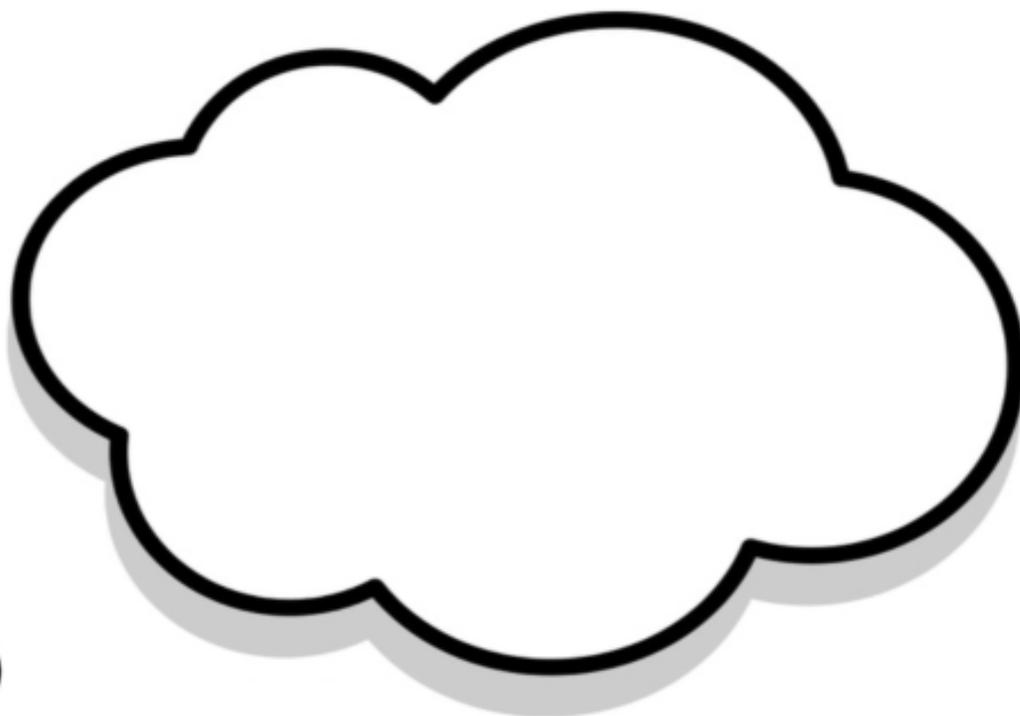




ST. STEPHEN'S
united methodist church



Daydreaming

**“Daydreaming of Truth”
Ephesians 4:1-16**

August 1, 2021

**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost
Communion Sunday
11:00 am**

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

It Is Well With My Soul
(by Phillip P. Bliss)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 51 CEB)

Leader: Have mercy on us, God, according to your faithful love!
Because we know our wrongdoings, our sin is always right in front of us.

People: Create a clean heart for me, O God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

Leader: And yes, you want the truth in the most hidden places;
you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.

People: Create a clean heart for me, O God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

Leader: Wash us and we will be whiter than snow. Let us hear joy and celebration again.

People: Create a clean heart for me, O God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

Leader: Hide your face from our sins; wipe away all our guilty deeds!

People: Create a clean heart for me, O God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

Leader: Please don't throw us out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from us.

People: Create a clean heart for me, O God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

Leader: Return the joy of your salvation to us and sustain us with a willing spirit.

People: Create a clean heart for me, O God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

*HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful (UMH 147)
(verses 1, 3 and 4)

***Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.***

*1. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.*

***Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.***

*3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden: God made them every one.*

***Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.***

*4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.*

***Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader:
Together, let us pray:

People:

**For every person, without exception, to know that each of us is a beloved child of God.
For reminders each day that the church is yours, God, and not ours.
For the knowledge that you, God, are in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and homes as well as in our church.
For the privilege of worshipping you God, and how it connects us all.
For the stories from scripture that transform our own stories bringing hope, peace, joy, love, and light.
Hear our Prayers as we pray in silence...**

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

Ephesians 4:1-16 (CEB)

1 Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. 2 Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, 3 and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. 4 You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. 5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all. 7 God has given his grace to each one of us measured out by the gift that is given by Christ. 8 That's why scripture says, "When he climbed up to the heights, he captured prisoners, and he gave gifts to people." 9 What does the phrase "he climbed up" mean if it doesn't mean that he had first gone down into the lower regions, the earth? 10 The one who went down is the same one who climbed up above all the heavens so that he might fill everything. 11 He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. 12 His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ 13 until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we aren't supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately mislead others. 15 Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, 16 who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.

*SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

One: Inspired words for beloved people.

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

SERMON

"Daydreaming of Truth"

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 August will go to the General Mission Fund.*

OFFERTORY

*Many Gifts, One Spirit
(by Allen Pote)*

Sung by the Houston Virtual Choir

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THANKSGIVING

*Communion Setting (Preface)
(by Mark Miller)*

TFWS #2257a

Sung: *Leader: The Lord be with you.*

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sung by All:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

TFWS #2257c

Sung by All:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

THE GREAT AMEN

TFWS #2257d

Sung by All:

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

SENDING FORTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN

Amazing Grace (UMH #378)

- 1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**
- 3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**
- 4. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Song
(by Robert Schumann)

***Stand as you are able.**
UMH=United Methodist Hymnal

Senior Pastor: Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe
Pastor of Music and Worship: Rev. Heather Velez
Lay Leader and Liturgist: Dan Barcus
Family Ministries Director: Steven Fisher
Organist: Dr. Andreea Muş
Acolyte: Levi Sullivan



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

Blood Drive This Sunday, August 1!

8am to 12:30pm

Fellowship Hall

(Benefiting the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center)

Help save a life! Sign up now to donate blood.
Register online at stshtx.org/events
(Walk-up donations will also be accepted.)

All donors will receive a coupon for a free pint of Blue Bell ice cream!



<http://bit.ly/stsflowers>



Altar Flowers



confirm

beginning fall 2021
stshtx.org/events

Register at stshtx.org/events
or call the church office.

Care Partners

Gathering Place Volunteer Training
Aug. 16, 10am, Fellowship Hall-Lunch included



THE MISSION FUND

Communion Offering for August:
St. Stephen's General Mission Fund

You can give using your smart phone!

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

