



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



**UNI  ED**

**“United: By Methodism”**  
**Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 12:49-56**

**August 14, 2022**

# Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

## 11:00 am

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

*Come Sunday*  
(by Duke Ellington)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 138)

Leader: We give thanks to you with all our hearts, Lord.  
**All: We sing your praise before all.**  
Leader: We bow toward your holy temple and thank your name  
**All: We sing your praise before all.**  
Leader: for your loyal love and faithfulness;  
**All: We sing your praise before all.**  
Leader: because you have made your name and word greater than everything else.  
**All: We sing your praise before all.**  
Leader: Let all the earth's rulers give thanks to you, Lord, because the Lord's glory is so great!  
**All: We sing your praise before all. Amen!**

\*OPENING HYMN

*Rejoice, the Lord is King*

UMH 715

**1. Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;  
mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.**

**2. Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.**

**3. His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of earth and hell are to our Jesus given.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.**

**4. Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come,  
and take his servants up to their eternal home.  
We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice; the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!**

\*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 Jesus 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.  
Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

1 Let me sing for my loved one a love song for his vineyard. My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. 2 He dug it, cleared away its stones, planted it with excellent vines, built a tower inside it, and dug out a wine vat in it. He expected it to grow good grapes—but it grew rotten grapes. 3 So now, you who live in Jerusalem, you people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard: 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard that I haven't done for it? When I expected it to grow good grapes, why did it grow rotten grapes? 5 Now let me tell you what I'm doing to my vineyard. I'm removing its hedge, so it will be destroyed. I'm breaking down its walls, so it will be trampled.

(continued on next page)

6 I'll turn it into a ruin; it won't be pruned or hoed, and thorns and thistles will grow up. I will command the clouds not to rain on it. 7 The vineyard of the Lord of heavenly forces is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are the plantings in which God delighted. God expected justice, but there was bloodshed; righteousness, but there was a cry of distress!

CHORUS

*And Are We Yet Alive*  
(verse 3)

UMH 553

**3. What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past,  
fights without, and fears within, since we assembled last!**

PRAYER

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**

\*GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:49-56

49 "I came to cast fire upon the earth. How I wish that it was already ablaze! 50 I have a baptism I must experience. How I am distressed until it's completed! 51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I have come instead to bring division. 52 From now on, a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three. 53 Father will square off against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." 54 Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud forming in the west, you immediately say, 'It's going to rain.' And indeed it does. 55 And when a south wind blows, you say, 'A heat wave is coming.' And it does. 56 Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret the present time?"

\*SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

One: Inspired words for beloved people.

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

SERMON

**"United: By Methodism"**

OFFERING PRAYER AND INVITATION

*You can give using your smartphone! Text a dollar amount to 84321 and select St. Stephen's.  
Those wishing to commit their lives to Christ are invited to contact Pastor Nathan at 512-771-2741.  
Our Communion offering for the month of August will go to Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM).*

OFFERTORY

*10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*  
(Words and Music by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman)

Ron Bruns and Brenda Paulk, Duet

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

UMH 384

- 1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.**
- 2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**
- 3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**  
(continued on next page)

*4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Offertoire No. 42  
(by Cesar Franck)*

**\*Please stand as you are able.  
UMH=United Methodist Hymnal**

**Senior Pastor: Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe  
Pastor of Music and Worship: Rev. Heather Velez  
Family Ministries Director: Steven Fisher  
Song Leader, Guitarist: Brenda Paulk  
Duet: Ron Bruns and Brenda Paulk  
Liturgist: Carol Luce  
Organist: Dr. Andreea Muş  
Acolytes: Julianna and Paige Cardner**

PRAYER REQUEST



Scan this code to request  
prayer using your smart phone.



**Communion Offering for August:  
Memorial Assistance Ministries**



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

**LOSS OF A SPOUSE**  
 A ONE TIME SEMINAR  
 AUGUST 16TH AT 6:00 PM

GRIEF SHARE

**BACK TO SCHOOL Blessing**

Saturday, August 20  
 10AM-11AM  
 1576 Chantilly Lane  
 on the lawn across from Frank Black

**FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
 AUG. 21 9:15 AM

**New Worship Time**  
 10:30 AM  
 Begins 8/21

Sunday School begins at 9:15

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**  
 AUG 21. @ 10:30

**UMYF END OF SUMMER POOL PARTY**

**AUGUST 21**  
**4-7 PM**

SWIMMING • GAMES • FOOD • POODLE • HUMIDITY • STEVEN

**You can give using your smart phone!**  
 Text a dollar amount to 84321 and select St. Stephen's, or go to [ststhtx.org/give](https://ststhtx.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 | [ststhtx.org](https://ststhtx.org) | [info@ststhtx.org](mailto:info@ststhtx.org)

