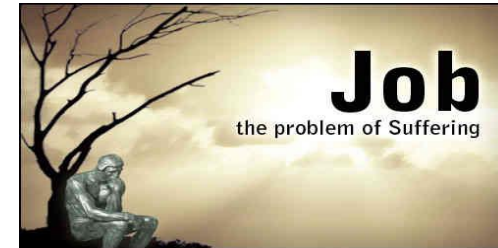


**Childcare** is available during worship for infants in Rooms 1 and 2. A greeter can direct you. "Celebration," a worship preparation experience for children preschool – 2nd grade, is offered during the 10:50 a.m. worship hour. Children are always welcome to join in worship services and are encouraged to sit with their parents. We have a Safe Sanctuary policy in place during worship time. **If your child must leave the worship space while under your care, please accompany them during that time to ensure the safety of your child.** **Special Assistance** is available if you have difficulty hearing and would like to use one of our personal hearing devices, or need other assistance. Please ask a greeter for help. There are large print bulletins available as well.



**St. Stephen's United Methodist Church  
Norman, Oklahoma**



**This Week at St. Stephen's:**

<b>Today:</b>		
1:30	Refugee Coalition	Zoom
2:00	CROP Walk	Andrews Park
4:30	Ring with Joy	Sanctuary
6:00	Meditation	Zoom
<b>Monday:</b>		
<b>Tuesday:</b>		
<b>Wednesday:</b>		
2:30	Sacred Journey	Room 12/Zoom
6:00	Fellowship of the Ringers	Sanctuary
7:00	Choir	Sanctuary
<b>Thursday:</b>		
7:00	NYSH	Lyle Hall
<b>Friday:</b>		
6:30	Living Room NA	Community Hall
6:00	Red Dirt Collective Skill Share	Lyle Hall
<b>Saturday:</b>		
9:30	Intermediate Tai Chi	Community Hall

Video recordings of sermons are available at the website listed below, on our Facebook page, and on YouTube.

Email – [ststephensumc@coxinet.net](mailto:ststephensumc@coxinet.net) Website – <http://ststephensnorman.org>

Church phone: 405.321.4988

Onelicense.net #A-721089

God calls us to be partners in community and partners for justice. In the Spirit of Christ we will:

- ❖ Care for one another
- ❖ Offer sanctuary and healing
- ❖ United head and heart
  - ❖ Do justice

*October 17, 2021*

*8:30am, 10:50am and online*

Gathering Thoughts

(10:50) Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Meditation

To live is to suffer, to survive is to find some meaning in the suffering.

*Friedrich Nietzsche*

And I felt like my heart had been so thoroughly and irreparably broken that there could be no real joy again, that at best there might eventually be a little contentment. Everyone wanted me to get help and rejoin life, pick up the pieces and move on, and I tried to, I wanted to, but I just had to lie in the mud with my arms wrapped around myself, eyes closed, grieving, until I didn't have to anymore.

*Anne Lamott*

Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it. *Helen Keller*

Ring the Bell

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Candle Lighting

Call to Worship:

One: When God laid the foundations of the earth, the morning stars and heavenly host sang songs of joy.

**Many: Let us bless God with hearts full of song, for our God has done amazing things!**

One: The winds whisper messages of God's goodness. Fire and flame proclaim God's presence.

**Many: Let us bless God our minds illumined, for our God has done amazing things!**

*From The Abingdon Worship Annual 2018, edited by Scifres and Beu*

Hymn "Holy Darkness" green #3141, v. 1-3

Prayer for Focus

**Amazing One, we cannot count the stars, we cannot see atoms, we cannot perceive the galaxies and how it all began except by our imagination and wonder. Yet we know You have set things in motion. We continue to learn and discover new and exciting things. Help us to foster curiosity and imagination and dreams. Remind us that Your way of wisdom is to seek understanding by being in awe of Your work in the universe. Help us to let go of our need to have answers, but stir in us the courage to ask questions. Help us to shift our mindsets so that we might spend more time in wonder and delight instead of worry and fear. Amen.**

*Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell,  
<http://rev-o-lution.org>, ©2020. Used by permission.*

(10:50) Sing to our Kids "Where Children Belong" black #2233  
Children's Time

Offering Ourselves, Our Tithes, Gifts, and Prayers

Offertory

Special Music

Scripture Reading

Job 38: 1-7, 34-41

Sermon "Playing God" Rev. Jeannie Himes

Reflection

Hymn "Bless Christ through Whom All Things Are Made" green #3035, v. 1, 2, 4

(8:30) Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral 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 the food we need and forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us all. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from all evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, forever, and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

Sending Forth "We Are Marching" black #2235b  
**We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.**

**Siyahamba ekukhanyen kwenhos, siyahamba ekukhanyen kwenhos. Siyahamba ekukhanyen kwenkhos, siyahamba ekukhanyen kwen khanyen kwenkhos. Siyahmaba, hamba, siyahamba, hamba, siyahamba ekuekhanyen kwenkhos.**

**We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light, the light of God. We are marching, marching we are marching, marching, we are marching in the light of God.**

Postlude

Liturgists 8:30 Don MacGorman 10:50 Jennifer McDanel