

St. Thomas Reformed Church  
St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands  
Founded 1660



*August 22, 2021*

We Welcome One and All  
In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!  
Follow our service at

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasreformedchurch/live>

Or

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCvFA8vUToP3W257eL8pf4pw>

# Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

*The liturgical color today is green representing the mission of the church!*

## “We Gather In God’s Presence...”

### Greeting and Ministry Updates

Introit

“Praise You”

Goodine

Praise You, praise You  
Let my life, oh Lord, praise You

### Call to Worship *(from Psalm 34:1-3)*

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth!

**Amen!**

We will bless the Lord at all times;

**God’s praise shall be continually on our lips**

Ours souls boast in the Lord;

**Let the humble hear and be glad.**

O magnify the Lord with me,

**And let us magnify God’s name together.**

### Prayer

Hymn

‘We Are Called to Be God’s People’

BEECHER

We are called to be God’s people  
Showing by our lives God’s grace  
One in heart and one in spirit  
Sign of hope for all the race  
Let us show how You have changed us  
And re-made us as Your own  
Let us share our life together  
As we shall around Your throne

We are called to be God’s servants  
Working in the world today  
Taking Your own task upon us  
All Your sacred words obey  
Let us rise, then, to Your summons

Dedicate to You our all  
That we may be faithful servants  
Quick to answer now Your call

We are called to be God's prophets  
Speaking for the truth and right  
Standing firm for godly justice  
Bringing evil things to light  
Let us seek the courage needed  
Our high calling to fulfill  
That the world may know the blessing  
Of the doing of God's will

### Unison Prayer of Confession

If we have been so busy that we don't notice the needs of others,  
or have resented those who do take time to be kind and generous,  
or have disgraced our faith by becoming self absorbed:

*Forgive us, loving God, and save us from ourselves.*

If we have been too proud to undertake humble tasks,  
or too impatient to do tasks that have no immediate reward,  
or too stubborn to seek the help of others:

*Forgive us, loving God, and save us from ourselves.*

If we have magnified small wrongs done to us,  
or have allowed tiny difficulties to frustrate us,  
or have been thick-skinned, inflexible or unteachable:

*Forgive us, loving God, and save us from ourselves.*

**Response**

**'Lord, Make Us Servants'**

O WALY WALY

Lord, make us servants of your peace  
Where there is hate, may we sow love  
Where there is hurt, may we forgive  
Where there is strife, may we make one

May we not look for love's return  
But seek to love unselfishly  
For in our giving we receive  
And in forgiving are forgiven

**Words of Assurance and Hope**

We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity  
Will one day be restored  
And they'll know we are Christians  
By our love, by our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians  
By our love

We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
And together, we'll spread the news  
That God is in our land  
And they'll know we are Christians  
By our love, by our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians  
By our love

We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
And we'll guard each one's dignity  
And save each one's pride  
And they'll know we are Christians  
By our love, by our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians  
By our love

**... To Hear God's Word...**

Scripture

Ephesians 6:10-20, Colossians 3:12-15

Message

**"Get Dressed"**

Pastor Jeff Gargano

# And Respond With Gratitude...

## Offering

Online giving available at [www.strciving.org](http://www.strciving.org)

## Offertory

### “Bound Together”

*Medema*

Refrain:

We are bound together and finely woven  
We're bound together and finely woven with love

Dressed no more in guilt and shame  
Clothed in Christ, we bear His name  
Covered now in boundless grace  
Here we find our resting place

Dressed to serve in the city streets  
Washing weary travelers' feet  
Christ the coat we wear each day  
Christ the coat we give away

When we walk through the fire and rain  
Christ will all our hope sustain  
When we walk through the darkest night  
Clothed in Christ we shine with light

Let the whole world hear your voice  
“Clothed in Christ: this is my choice!”  
Take these garments in your hand  
Bring this hope to every land

## Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

## Hymn

### ‘Christian Hearts in Love United’

*ODE TO JOY*

**Christian hearts in love united  
Search to know God's holy will  
Let God's love, in us ignited  
More and more our spirits fill  
Christ the head, and we his members  
We reflect the light he is  
Christ the master, we disciples  
He is ours and we are his**

Grant, Lord, that with your direction  
"Love each other" we comply  
Help us live in true affection  
Your love to exemplify  
Let our mutual love be glowing  
Brightly so that all may view  
That we, as on one stem growing  
Living branches are in you

Come, then, living church of Jesus  
Covenant with him anew  
Unto him who conquered for us  
May we pledge our service true  
May our lives reflect the brightness  
Of God's love in Jesus shown  
To the world we then bear witness  
We belong to God alone

## Benediction

### GIVING THANKS:

#### Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Gargano
Liturgist:	Pastor Ben Rowe
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Lori Abbotts
Live Stream Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Lucy Sutton, Dave Whitter

**Welcome and thank you** for joining us remotely!

**Today we welcome** Pastor Jeff Gargano as our guest preacher. He is the pastor of the Reformed Church of the Tarrytown, which continues the ministry of the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow. Prior to Tarrytown Jeff served at the St. Thomas Reformed Church (1995-2009).

**We also welcome** newly arrived Co-Pastor Ben Rowe as the liturgist. He and his wife, Emily, along with their children Christine, Gwendolyn, Lydia and William are temporarily living in the Retreat Center and adjusting to island life.

**Join Rev. Rebecca Broom** as she shares "The Ten Best Ways to Live". From 'Young Children and Worship' © 1989 Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman

## Lectionary Scripture Readings

Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9  
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15  
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

## Message from the STRC Consistory

Praying all is well with you. As you know, Covid cases are on the rise in the VI. Based on a 10%+ positivity rate Consistory has agreed on the following:

STRC is doing its part to help stop the spread of Covid-19 and its Delta variant. **All Sunday services in August will be live-stream ONLY with a target date of regathering on Sunday, September 5.** The STRC Sanctuary and meeting rooms will be closed immediately for deep cleaning. No in-person meetings will be scheduled until further notice.

**Please do your part:** wear a mask in public, observe social distancing protocols, avoid mass gatherings and get vaccinated!

**Join us in prayer** for all those directly affected by this virus and for the health and safety of our medical professionals and staff working on the front lines.

**We walk by faith** and not by fear. By faith, we know we will get through this... together!

## Contact Information

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