

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



August 8, 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>

Eleventh 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

“Welcome”

Miller

Let’s walk together for a while
And ask where we begin
To build a world where love can grow
And hope can enter in
To be the hands of healing
And to plant the seeds of peace
Singing welcome,

Refrain:

Welcome to this place
You’re invited to come and know God’s grace
All are welcome, the love of God to share
‘Cause all of us are welcome here
All are welcome in this place

Let’s talk together of a time
When we will share a feast
Where pride and power kneel to serve
The lonely and the least
And joy will set the table
As we join our hands to pray
Singing welcome, (*refrain*)

Let’s dream together of the day
When earth and heaven are one
A city built of love and light
The new Jerusalem
Where our mourning turns to dancing
Every creature lifts its voice
Crying welcome! (*refrain*)

Call to Worship (Adapted from Psalm 8, from *The Message*)

God, brilliant Lord,

Yours is a household name!

Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you;

**toddlers shout the songs that drown out enemy talk,
and silence atheist babble.**

I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous, your handmade sky-jewelry,

Moon and stars mounted in their settings.

Then I look at my micro-self and wonder,

Why did you bother with us? Why take a second look our way?

Yet we've so narrowly missed being gods,

bright with Eden's dawn light.

You put us in charge of your handcrafted world,

repeated to us your Genesis-charge,

Made us lords of sheep and cattle,

even animals out in the wild,

Birds flying and fish swimming,

whales singing in the ocean deeps.

God, brilliant Lord,

Your name echoes around the world!

Prayer

Hymn

'For the Beauty of the Earth'

DIX

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale, and tree and flower
Sun and moon, and stars of light
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth, and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above
Offering up on every shore
One pure sacrifice of love
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Creator God, we confess that all too often we have ignored and denied your lordship of the earth entrusted to us. We have assumed the right to do with it as we please, by taking more than we have returned, by taking for granted its productivity, by denying justice to many who have labored on the land and sea. We confess that material values, rather than kingdom realities, have often determined our relationships. We have been more interested in our neighbor's land than in our neighbor. Communities, peoples, creatures, lands, seas – they have been set apart, or torn apart, or driven apart, by conflicting claims and greedy, thoughtless ambitions. You know our works and our thoughts, Lord. Forgive us we pray. Help us to seek first your wisdom and to live in the ways of your kingdom. Reconcile us in your spirit of peace, until from sabbath to sabbath, all flesh shall worship your holy name.

Response

'Change My Heart, O God'

Espinosa

Change my heart, O God
Make it ever true
Change my heart, O God
May I be like You

You are the Potter
I am the clay
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray

**Change my heart, O God
Make it ever true
Change my heart, O God
May I be like You**

Words of Assurance and Hope

Our world, broken and scarred, still belongs to God. God holds it together and gives us hope. Hear this good news: If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

(2 Cor 5:17-18).

Thanks be to God!

Musical Offering **“Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland”** *Bach (BWV 659)*
Julian Barnard, violin

***Hymn**

‘Jesus Heard with Deep Compassion’

PLEADING SAVIOR

**Jesus heard with deep compassion
Pleas for healing, cries of pain
Cured the lame and cleansed the leper
Gave the blind their sight again
At his voice, tormenting spirits
Fled a madman’s tortured mind
Clothed and healed, he went rejoicing
Home and family to find**

**Jesus touched the lives of outcasts
Weak or sinful, scorned or poor
Gave them self-respect and courage
Trust and faith and hope secure
Truly hearing, truly seeing
Deep within each troubled soul
Jesus healed their wounded spirits
Sent them forth with lives made whole**

Jesus, Lord, our true example
You have shown how we must live
Teach us how to share with others
Everything we have to give
Let our days be spent in service
Bring us by your grace to know
Healing is the church's calling
And the path that we must go

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

Scripture

Ephesians 4:32-5:2

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (NRSV)

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. (NLT)

Message

“In Perfect Charity” Reverend Rebecca Broom

And Respond With Gratitude...

Offering

Online giving is available at www.strcgiving.org.

Offertory

“In Perfect Charity”

DeBruyn, arr. Schaffer

O Most High and glorious God
Cast your light into the darkness of my heart
Give me right faith, and certain hope
And perfect, perfect charity
Give me true insight, Lord, and wisdom
That I may always live within your ever holy will
Lord, may your light within me burn
Shining out in perfect charity

O Most High and glorious God
Open wide the door that leads me to your love
Give me your firm, yet gentle strength
May I live that perfect charity
Lord, may your peace be ever in me
That I may always seek to
Serve your children here on earth
That I may find my home with You
And live in perfect charity

Then Most High with thankful praise
I will sing unto the glory of your name
To Father, Son, and Spirit bright
Living presence, Perfect Charity
Praise to the Love that shine in splendor
That light the pathways of my heart
And brings me close to you
O Holy One, invite me in
Where You live in perfect charity

***Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn**

'Called As Partners in Christ's Service'

HYFRYDOL

**Called as partners in Christ's service
Called to ministries of grace
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace
May we learn the art of sharing
Side by side and friend with friend
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end**

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring
Christ's clear call to work and worth
Let us follow, never faltering
Reconciling folk on earth
Men and women, richer poorer
All God's people, young and old
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold

Thus, new patterns for Christ's mission
In a small or global sense
Help us bear each other's burdens
Breaking down each wall or fence
Words of comfort, words of vision
Words of challenge, said with care
Bring new power and strength for action
Make us colleagues, free and fair

So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife
Make us partners in our living
Our compassion to increase
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace

Benediction

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Reverend Rebecca Broom
Liturgist:	Dr. Ronald Nimmo
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Julian Barnard, Lori Abbotts, and Andrea Lee
Live Stream Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Lucy Sutton, Dave Whitter

Thank you for joining us remotely for the next four Sundays.

Welcome Pastor Ben Rowe and Emily, Christine, Gwendolyn, Lydia, & William! We are happy to have you here with us after a long day of travel yesterday. The Rowe family will be staying in the Retreat Center.

Join Rev. Rebecca Broom as she tells the story of “Abram & Sarai”.
From Young Children and Worship © 1989 Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman

Here is the link. <https://youtu.be/zf5L6ND4R4E>

2021 ONCOLOGY VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUPS

WOMEN’S Cancer Virtual Support Group

This virtual group is for patients diagnosed with cancer at any stage of treatment or survivorship.

2nd Wednesday of the month / 12-1pm 8/11, 9/8, 10/13, 11/10, 12/8

MEN’S Cancer Virtual Support Group

This virtual group is for patients diagnosed with cancer at any stage of treatment or survivorship.

4th Wednesday of the month / 12-1pm 8/25, 9/22, 10/27, 11/24, 12/22

Facilitated by: Lauren Myler, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Clinical Oncology Social Worker

All groups will be held via Zoom.

To register, please call (340) 776-1551 or
email laurenmyler@stxcancer.com.

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 voted YES on the following:

STRC is doing it's part to help stop the spread of Covid-19 and it's Delta variant. **Beginning today, August 8 all Sunday services will be "live-stream ONLY" during the month of August 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, social distance, 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!

Lectionary Scripture Readings

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111
Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

Contact Information

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Online giving:

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