

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



August 2, 2020

We Welcome One and All!

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ

Follow our service at

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

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<https://strchurch.org/site-content>

Ninth Sunday of Pentecost

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

“ We Gather In God’s Presence...”

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Introit

“Oh, the Mercy of God”

Bullock

Call to Worship

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

Amen!

All who are thirsty, come!

God is the fountain for our lives.

All who are hungry, come!

Jesus feeds us with goodness and grace.

Rich and poor, young and old, neighbor and guest, come!

The Holy Spirit gathers everyone around the Table.

Prayer

Song

‘We Are Called to Be God’s People’

AUSTRIAN HYMN

We are called to be God’s people,

Showing by our lives Your 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 lives 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 the 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 Your will**

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession (*from Psalm 25*)

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. In Jesus' name...

Response **'Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive'** *Schaffer/Herklots*

**Forgive our sins as we forgive,
You taught us, Lord, to pray
But You alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
And bid resentment cease
Then, bound to all in bonds of love
Our lives will spread Your peace**

Words of Assurance and Hope

Hear the good news: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song **'Lord, I Want to Be a Christian'** *Spiritual*

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart**

***Refrain:* In my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart**

**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart (*Refrain*)**

Lord, I want to be forgiving in my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be forgiving in my heart (*Refrain*)

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

Scripture **Genesis 32:22-31**

Message **“Preserving Life!”**
(Genesis Sermon Series 5 of 7)

...And Respond with Gratitude

Offering STRCGIVING.ORG

Offertory **“Open Wide the Door of Mercy”** *Greig*
Rachel & Tate Dewalt, Amy & David Himes, Tama McConnell

**Open wide the door of mercy,
Let all be welcomed in
Let compassion, love, and healing,
The work of Christ begin
Open wide the door of mercy,
Let all division end
May we be a door of mercy
Until He comes again
All who enter in the threshold,
Longing for release
Will know of their redemption,
Receive His gentle peace
Come, all those who feel unworthy,
Those who've been betrayed
Receive the gift of mercy,
Do not be afraid
All who linger in the shadows,**

**Full of doubt and shame
Pass now through the doorway,
And call upon His name
Come, all those who feel forgotten,
Those weighed down by sin
Receive the gift of mercy, be restored again**

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

A Celebration of Communion

(You are invited to prepare the elements at home and partake together during the service.)

**What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all-knowing God counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins, they are many; God’s mercy is more**

**What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Savior so tender is calling us home
God welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins, they are many; God’s mercy is more**

**Praise the Lord, God’s mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins, they are many; God’s mercy is more**

**What riches of kindness Christ lavished on us
His love was the payment; His life was the cost
We stood ‘neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins, they are many; God’s mercy is more**

COMMUNION LITURGY

MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

Beloved in the Lord Jesus, the meal which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, communion, and hope. We come to remember that Jesus was sent into the world to assume our flesh and blood, to become God with us, that we might be redeemed. We come to have communion with this same Christ who has promised to be with us even to the end of the world. We come in hope, believing that this bread and this cup are a pledge and a foretaste of a new heaven and a new earth, where we shall behold God.

Jesus said, I was hungry and you gave me food;

I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

Here is the bread of life given for us;

let all who hunger come and eat.

Here is the fruit of the vine, poured out for us;

let all who thirst come and drink.

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Holy and right it is to give you thanks and praise
at all times and in all places, O God our Creator.

Source of all life and goodness, You created heaven with all
its hosts and the earth with all its plenty and preserve us by
your providence. With your whole church on earth and
with all the company of heaven we proclaim your glory.

(sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes, in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Most righteous God, we remember in this meal the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. United with Christ in his suffering, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the power of God to triumph over evil, we wait in joyful hope for the fullness of God's reign.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break and the cup which we bless may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into Christ our Lord.

And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf, and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

COMMUNION

THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has now fed us at his Table, let us praise God's holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and do not forget all his benefits—

who forgives all your iniquity,

who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him,
who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all,
and will also give us all things with him.
**Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise
of the Lord,
from this time forth forevermore. Amen.**

From Psalm 103, with additions

The Lord's Prayer

Malotte

**Our Father, which 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 debts
As we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power
And the glory, forever
Amen**

Benediction

Choral Benediction “Prayer of Dedication”

Besig/Price/Tomer

Go with us, Lord, as now we depart
Calming the fears that trouble each heart
Keep us all in your grace
Until we come, again, to this place
God be with you till we meet again
Loving counsels guide, uphold you
With a shepherd’s care enfold you
God be with you till we meet again

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers: All of us viewing together
Preaching: Pastor Jeffrey Neevel
Liturgist: Mike Conforti
Music: Chanelle Schaffer, Amy & Dave Himes,
Rachel & Tate DeWalt, Tama McConnell
Virtual Choir: Lori Abbotts, Joy Aird, Geoffrey Barnard,
Will Howe, Colleen Imbriale, Andrea Lee,
Steve Mange, Fred Northup, Julie Northup,
Jeff Smith, Judy Spurrell, Bonnie Troutman,
Penny Woods
Live Stream Team: James Anderson, James Cobb, Lucy Sutton

WELCOME ... to everyone joining in worship and
celebrating communion this morning.

As it says in Phil 1:5,

we are thankful for your partnership in the gospel.....

Lectionary Scripture Readings for this week:
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b;
1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15;
Matthew 14:22-33

The Ladies Bible Study is continuing to meet this summer on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm using Zoom. We will be studying the lectionary series posted in the bulletin. If you are interested in participating please contact Edye Ciaccia at 678-772-5412 for meeting info and Zoom sign in information. All ladies are welcome.

The Men's Ministry Bible Study also meets on Wednesdays using Zoom. They start at 6:30 pm. Please call or email Forrest Broom for more information: 340-474-0472 or forrestbroom@gmail.com.

Contact Information

Mailing Address PO Box 301769 St. Thomas, VI 00803

Website: <https://strchurch.org/>

Email: mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org

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