

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



# Third Sunday *of* Advent

December 13, 2020

*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://strchurch.org/site-content>

# Third Sunday of Advent

The liturgical color today is purple, as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.

## “ We Gather In God’s Presence...”

### Greeting & Announcements

Song

‘Come By Here’

*Spiritual*

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** (*Joy*) The Jeffrey Boschulte family

**Speaker 1:** The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burning brighter. This radiance warms our hearts and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice!

**Speaker 2:** “May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves” (Psalm 126:5–6).

*The first three candles are lit.*

**Speaker 3:** Light three candles, see them glow brightly, so that all may know how three candles show the way making our darkness bright as God’s day.

**Speaker 4:** Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

**Let us pray:** Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit’s gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sin and sorrow grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders, wonders of his love

## **Responsive Prayer of Confession and Hope**

God of joy, we prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, confessing our attraction to a godless world that does not know Christ.

**Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, and keep us faithful for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

God sent Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, to bring joy to the world!

**Loving Lord, mold us and fashion us into the image of Christ.**

Hear the good news: In Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
**Alleluia and Amen!**

## **Song      ‘Two Thousand Years Since Bethlehem’**

*FOREST GREEN*

**Two thousand years since Bethlehem  
First welcomed Jesus' birth  
The startling truth began to dawn  
That God had come to earth  
And as he grew and lived and taught  
A different way unfurled  
A way of joy and love and peace  
A new start for the world**

**Two thousand years since Galilee  
Where Jesus preached and healed  
In words of truth and works of power  
God's kingdom was revealed  
As young and old and rich and poor  
Responded to his call  
They found what we may find today  
A new start for us all**

Two thousand years of Christian faith  
Have changed our history  
For Jesus is the Lord of time  
And of eternity  
For all who seek a better way  
Than failure, sin and pain  
Still Jesus Christ makes all things new  
A chance to start again

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

Scripture Reading      Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Message                      "Another Rooster!"

**...And Respond with Gratitude**

Offering

Offertory "Rejoice Greatly" (from Messiah)

*Handel*

Laura Strickling, soprano

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion  
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem  
Behold, thy king cometh unto thee  
He is the righteous Savior  
And He shall speak peace unto the heathen

[STRCGIVING.ORG](http://STRCGIVING.ORG)

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed  
Great David's greater Son  
Hail in the time appointed  
His reign on earth begun  
He comes to break oppression  
To set the captive free  
To take away transgressions  
And rule in equity**

**He comes with justice speedy  
To those who suffer wrong  
To help the poor and needy  
And bid the weak be strong  
To give them songs for sighing  
Their darkness turn to light  
Whose souls, condemned and dying  
Are precious in his sight**

**He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers  
Spring in His path to birth  
Before Him on the mountains  
Shall peace, the herald, go  
And righteousness, in fountains  
From hill to valley flow**

**To Him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend  
His kingdom still increasing  
A kingdom without end**

**The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove  
His name shall stand forever  
That name to us is love**

## **Benediction**

**Children & Worship series begins:  
“Advent 3 - The Shepherds Show the Way to Bethlehem!”**

### **GIVING THANKS:**

#### **Leading Worship Today:**

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Advent Wreath:	Jeffrey, Sr; Denita, Jeffrey, Jr and Cayenne Boschulte
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Laura Strickland
Live Stream Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Lucy Sutton

**WELCOME ... thank you for your faithful following  
of our online services and your commitment to  
worshiping the Lord each week with us!**

### **STRC Virtual Birthday Celebration**

**Today is Birthday Sunday! Join our virtual  
celebration by logging onto a Zoom session after the  
Children and Worship segment. Here is the info you use  
to log onto the Zoom meeting.**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 824 8316 2684**

**Passcode: 007501**

**Contact Elisabeth Anderson at [mewanderson@gmail.com](mailto:mewanderson@gmail.com)  
if you have any questions.**

**The Ladies Bible Study** is continuing to meet this Fall on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm using Zoom. 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](mailto:forrestbroom@gmail.com).

**Lectionary Scripture Readings** for this week:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

### **Contact Information**

**Mailing Address** PO Box 301769 St. Thomas, VI 00803

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

**Email:** [mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org](mailto:mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org)

**STRC "APP" free from iTunes and Google Play**

**Like us on our Facebook page:**

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

**Online giving:**

[STRCGIVING.ORG](https://www.strcgiving.org)