

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



December 20, 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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Fourth 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

Prelude “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Sleepers, Awake)” *Bach*
Kenneth Dake, organist

Lighting of the Advent Candle (*Love*) The Peterkin family

Speaker 1: Once God’s plan was a mystery, hidden from our sight. Now God has disclosed what was kept secret for so very long; He has brought it out in the light. In the brighter light on this fourth Sunday in Advent, may we see more clearly the glory of God in Christ and sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever.

Speaker 2: “With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens” (Psalm 89:1b-2).

All four Advent candles are lit.

Speaker 3: Light four candles, see them glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How four candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God’s day.

Speaker 4: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Let us pray: Dear God, your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your steadfast love shine brightly in us and through us, that all may give you praise and glory. In the Savior’s name we pray. Amen.

**Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free
Who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace**

**Now, from the house of David, a child of grace has come
A Savior who will lead us to our eternal home
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way
The prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day**

**On all by death imprisoned, the sun begins to rise
The dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes
To guide the feet of pilgrims along the path of peace
O, bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease**

Call to Confession

Responsive Prayer of Confession and Hope

God of love, 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 love
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!

What Child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping

Chorus

This, this is Christ, the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading (*Chorus*)

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh
Come, peasant, king to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him (*Chorus*)

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

Scripture Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Message

"A Divine Secret!"

...And Respond with Gratitude

Offering

Offertory

“A Child Is Born”

Michael Barr, Trumpet

Jones

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Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Song

‘Love Has Come’

BRING A TORCH

Love has come, a light in the darkness
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it
Hear how their song of joy arises
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior
Love! Love! Glory to God on high

Love is born! Come share in the wonder
Love is God, now asleep in the hay
See the glow in the eyes of His mother
What is the name her heart is saying
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel

Love has come, and never will leave us
Love is life everlasting and free
Love is Jesus within and among us
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high

Benediction

Postlude **“Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella”**

Arr. Chapman

**Children & Worship series begins:
“Advent 4 - The Magi Show the Way to Bethlehem!”**

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Advent Wreath:	Yuri, Valerie, Lilah, and Sienna Peterkin
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Michael Barr, Kenneth Dake
Live Stream Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Lucy Sutton

MERRY CHRISTMAS ... thank you for your faithful following of our virtual services. Make sure you join us at 7 pm Atlantic Standard Time for us here in VI which is 6 pm EST on Christmas Eve for a very special online celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

The Ladies Bible Study is continuing to meet this Winter 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.

Lectionary Scripture Readings for this week:
Isaiah 61:10–62:3; Psalm 148;
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Contact Information

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