

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



# Advent

December 6, 2020

*We Welcome One and All*  
*In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!*  
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# Second 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**

**‘Gesu Bambino’**

Yon

Dr. LeRoy Trotman, trombone

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** (*Peace*)                      The Flowers family

**Speaker 1:** Fire burns. It hurts. It can destroy. Fire also gives warmth and light. The coming of Christ is both a day of judgment and a day of promise. Two candles, flickering brightly, help us remember that the coming of Christ has many meanings.

**Speaker 2:** “Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky” (Psalm 85:10–11).

*The first two candles are lit.*

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

**Speaker 4:** Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

**Let us pray:** Dear God, we have much to do and we are not sure we will be ready for the day of your coming. In Advent’s light, help us to see what is important: to be who you want us to be, and to do what you would have us do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Hymn

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's deep shadows put to flight (*refrain*)

O Come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace (*refrain*)

**Call to Confession**

**Responsive Prayer of Confession and Hope**

God of peace, 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 peace to a broken 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**

**'O Little Town of Bethlehem'**

*ST. LOUIS*

**O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight**

**How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born in us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Immanuel**

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

**Scripture Reading**

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

**Message**

**“Comfort My People!”**

## **...And Respond with Gratitude**

**Offering**

**Offertory “Welcome to Our World”**

*Rice*

*Andrea King*

**Tears are falling**

**Hearts are breaking**

**How we need to hear from God**

**You've been promised**

**We've been waiting**

**Welcome holy Child**

**Hope that You don't mind our manger**

**How I wish we would have known**

**But, long-awaited holy Stranger**

**Make Yourself at home**

**Bring Your peace**

**Into our violence**

**Bid our hungry souls be filled**

**Word now breaking heaven's silence**

**Welcome to our world**

**Fragile finger sent to heal us**

**Tender brow prepared for thorn**

**Tiny heart whose love will save us**

**Unto us is born**

**So, wrap our injured flesh around You  
Breathe our air and walk our sod  
Rob our sin and make us holy  
Perfect Son of God  
Welcome to our world**

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

## **A Service of Holy Communion**

*(You are invited to prepare your elements at home and to partake together during today's service)*

## **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;

Jesus said, I was thirsty and you gave me drink;

**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.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of power and might  
Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of power 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**

**Children & Worship series begins:  
"Advent 2 - Mary and Joseph Show the Way  
to Bethlehem!"**

## **GIVING THANKS:**

### **Leading Worship Today:**

Ministers: All of us viewing together  
Preaching: Pastor Jeff Neevel  
Advent Wreath: Adam, Tess, Hope, Titus and Rynne Flowers  
Music: Chanelle Schaffer, Andrea King, Dr. LeRoy Trotman  
Live Stream Team: James Anderson, James Cobb, Lucy Sutton

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

## **STRC Virtual Birthday Celebration**

**Next Sunday 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 Consistory Nominating Committee

Dear STRC family,

There are two vacant positions on consistory for the coming year, (1 *Deacon*, 1 *Elder*). A nominating committee has been asked to collect names of active members to submit for approval. Elders and deacons, along with the minister of Word and Sacrament, comprise the consistory. **Deacons** are men or women who are called by God and uplifted by the church as those who are leaders in ministries of service, mercy and out-reach. **Elders** are men or women who are called by God and uplifted by the church as those who are leaders in ministries of discipleship, worship and spiritual oversight. Please share with the members of the nominating committee your input as to whom you believe would serve our congregation well as an elder or deacon. The committee is in need of and is expecting your prayerful participation in this process! Feel free to contact any of the committee members listed below to nominate an active STRC member.

**Today is the last day that nominations  
will be accepted.**

Bob Stolz 703-303-9281 Robert.stolz@gmail.com

Sarah Hancock 340-643-1497 sarahfoxvi@gmail.com

Mary Howe 340-514-9499 mhowe54@gmail.com

**The Ladies Bible Study** is continuing to meet this Fall on Wednesday evenings at 6 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:  
**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55;**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28**

### **Contact Information**

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

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