

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



February 21, 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>

First Sunday of Lent

The liturgical color today is purple in preparation.

“ We Gather In God’s Presence...”

The Welcome

Call to Worship

Gracious God you have created all that is.

You have given us the breath of our lives.

You have not made us for darkness and death,

But that we might live and come closer to you.

Take us by the hand O Lord,

In these days of loss and great sadness.

Open our hearts to your spirit and love,

That they may comfort us and strengthen us.

For life comes upon us suddenly and unexpectedly

And tests our souls, our faith, and our courage.

Teach us, O Lord, to live as those prepared to die

And to die as those prepared to live.

For there is nothing in life or death

In the world as it is or as it shall be,

There is nothing in all creation

That can separate us from your love. Amen.

Time for Personal Meditation & Prayer

Nocturne in F#m (Op. 48 no. 2)

Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing

Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise to thee an altar
Hither by thy help I'm come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious love

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let thy goodness, like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above

A Psalm of Comfort Psalm 23

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the
Shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Response 'Come, Let Us Return Unto the Lord'

Prosch/Schaffer

**Come let us return unto the Lord (4x)
Guide us through the wilderness, we pray (4x)
Lord, we give ourselves to You today (4x)**

Words of Assurance and Hope

Song

'Be Not Afraid'

Dufford

**You shall cross the barren desert
But you shall not die of thirst
You shall wander far in safety
Though you do not know the way
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
And all will understand
You shall see the face of God and live**

Refrain
Be not afraid
I go before you always
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest

If you pass through raging waters in the sea
You shall not drown
If you walk amid the burning flames
You shall not be harmed
If you stand before the power of hell
And death is at your side
Know that I am with you through it all (*refrain*)

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

Scripture Mark 1:9-15

Message “Getting In and Getting Out”

Rev. Fred Northup

...And Respond with Gratitude...

Offering

Offertory “Unexpected Places”

Sorenson

Rachel & Tate DeWalt, Amy & Dave Himes, Tama McConnell

“I know the plans I have in store,” You whisper in my ear
Words of affirmation, things I need to hear
But of all the things you planned for me, I never would
have guessed
That bringing me right here is what You call Your best

But here I am in this unexpected place
A place I did not ask for, but one that's filled with grace
And here I am in this room I did not plan
But Jesus, You are here, Jesus, You are grace
Jesus, You are with me in this unexpected place
And in this room, I'll learn the truth that,
 "Blessed are the poor;
 Blessed are the scorned;
 Blessed are those who mourn."
And in this room,
You'll teach me that this time is not in vain
There's purpose for the pain, and beauty still remains

So may we find the fullness that comes from empty spaces
Jesus waits for us in these unexpected places
If you find yourself in an unexpected place
 A place you did not ask for,
 But oh, friend—there is grace
If you find yourself in a room of emptiness
 Jesus is there, Jesus is grace
 Jesus is with you in this unexpected place

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Song

'Leaning on the Everlasting Arms'

Hoffman/Showalter

What a fellowship, what a joy divine
 Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine
 Leaning on the everlasting arms

Refrain:
Leaning, leaning
Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way
Leaning on the everlasting arms
O how bright the path grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms (*Refrain*)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near
Leaning on the everlasting arms (*Refrain*)

Benediction

Children and Worship series

“The Lenten Puzzle”

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Liturgist:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Preaching:	Reverend Fred Northup
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Rachel & Tate DeWalt, Amy & Dave Himes, Tama McConnell
Live Stream Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Lucy Sutton

Lectionary Scripture Readings for this week:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;

Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

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.

Contact Information

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