

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



January 17, 2021

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://m.youtube.com/channel/UCvFA8vUToP3W257eL8pf4pw>

Second Sunday after Epiphany

The liturgical color today is green in preparation.

“ We Gather In God’s Presence...”

Greeting and Ministry Opportunities

Introit **“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Calling”** *Spiritual*

Chorus:

**I heard the voice of Jesus calling
Here’s what He said to me:**

**If you have ears to hear, then hear
If you have eyes, then see**

**All that you do for the least of these
That’s what you do to me**

**I’ve come that you may know the truth
That’s what will set you free**

Call to Worship *(from Psalm 139:1-4)*

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

AMEN!

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

**You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you
discern my thoughts from far away.**

You search out my path and my lying down, and are
acquainted with all my ways.

**Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you
know it completely.**

Therefore dear Lord, let your Spirit be upon us that

we may be related to you with true understanding in
this time of worship.

Amen!

Prayer

Song

‘We Are Called to Be God’s People’

AUSTRIAN HYMN

**We are called to be God’s people
Showing by our lives God’s 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 God’s own task upon us
All God’s sacred words obey
Let us rise, then, to the summons
Dedicate to God our all
That we may be faithful servants
Quick to answer now God’s 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

Prayer of Confession

When we have failed to love you with all our heart and to be good stewards of your creation:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

When we have failed to take up the cross of discipleship and to be good stewards of your gospel:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

When we have failed to be faithful members of your church and to be good stewards of your spiritual gifts:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Song

'Change My Heart, O God'

Espinosa

Change my heart, O God

Make it ever true

Change my heart, O God

May I be like You

You are the Potter

I am the clay

Mold me and make me

This is what I pray...

Assurance of Pardon

The good news is that all who trust in Christ will have their sins forgiven and receive eternal life. As you hold this faith, I declare that you are set free from all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Thanks be to God.

Let's walk together for a while
And ask where we begin
To build a world where love can grow
And hope can enter in.
To be the hands of healing
And to plant the seeds of peace,
Singing,

Refrain

Welcome! Welcome to this place
You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome, the love of God to share
'Cause all of us are welcome here
All are welcome in this place

Let's talk together of a time
When we will share a feast
Where pride and power kneel to serve
The lonely and the least
And joy will set the table
As we join our hands to pray
Singing, (*refrain*)

Let's dream together of the day
When earth and heaven are one
A city built of love and light
The new Jerusalem
Where our mourning turns to dancing
Every creature lifts its voice
Crying, (*refrain*)

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

Scripture

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Message

“Where Do I Go From Here?”

Rev. Fred Northup

...And Respond with Gratitude...

Offering

Offertory

“Use Me, Lord”

Drennan/Hughes

Rachel and Tate DeWalt, Amy & David Himes, Tama McConnell

Use me, Lord; use me for your service

Use me, Lord; use me to do your will

How I pray, make my life count

For you each day

And so I say, use me, Lord, today

Use me, Lord; use me to tell love's story

Use me, Lord; use me to lift your name

Alleluia, I will sing your praise

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Ordination & Installation of Consistory

Order for the Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

Scripture teaches that those chosen to the office of elder are called along with pastors to encourage spiritual growth among the members and help them to walk in the way of Christ. Scripture also teaches that deacons are responsible for the ministry of compassion and material maintenance,

representing God's love and mercy in Christ. Everything in the church will be done decently and in order when faithful persons are called to office, and responsibly fulfill their charge.

That all may know your willingness to accept these responsibilities, I ask you to answer the following questions:

Do you reaffirm the vows you made when you confessed your faith in Christ and became a communicant member of Christ's Church?

I do.

Do you believe in your heart that you are called by God's Church and therefore by God to your respective office?

I do.

Do you believe the books of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and the perfect doctrine of salvation; rejecting all doctrines contrary thereto?

I ask you, Leroy & Billie, as elders, will you oversee and encourage the spiritual growth of this congregation; providing for the proclamation and hearing of God's Word, the reverent celebration of sacraments, and the loving care of the members?

I will, with the help of God.

I ask you, Cathy, as deacon, will you manifest the love and care of Christ; gathering and distributing the offerings of God's people, giving personal attention to the distressed, and exercising good stewardship over the goods and property of the congregation?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you, elders and deacons, be loyal to the witness and work of the St. Thomas Reformed Church and the Reformed

Church in America and do your best to further her mission here at home and abroad?

I will.

To the Congregation gathered at home...

Do you the members of the St Thomas Reformed Church, receive in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Cathy, Billie & Leroy as duly elected and ordained servants of Christ?

We do.

Do you promise to respect them for the sake of the office for which they have been chosen and ordained?

We do.

Do you promise to encourage and pray for them, to labor together in obedience to the gospel for the unity, purity, and peace of the church, the welfare of the whole world, and the honor of our Lord Jesus Christ?

We do.

Prayer for Ordination

Declaration

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only head of the church, I declare that Cathy, Billie & Leroy are duly ordained and installed to the offices of Elder & Deacon. Beloved people of God, receive them as Christ's own servants. Support them and the others in love, that their work may bear fruit.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Song

'Here I Am, Lord'

Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Chorus:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send? (*chorus*)

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide

'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send? (*chorus*)

Benediction

Postlude

Children and Worship series: “Jesus is Baptized”

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

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

Lectionary Scripture Readings for this week:

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Today we are pleased to welcome once again to the pulpit Rev. Fred Northup. Fred is a retired Episcopal priest who served congregations in Memphis, Tennessee; Paris, France; New York City and Lake Charles, Louisiana before serving for ten years as the Dean of St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle. Following his retirement he founded a non-profit organization, Athletes for a Better World (abw.org) which uses sports to teach values to young athletes. He and his wife Julie, a retired attorney, live in Asheville, North Carolina and as much as possible on Water Island.

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 Edey Ciaccia at 678-772-5412 for meeting info and Zoom sign in information. All ladies are welcome.

Contact Information

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