

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



*July 19, 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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<https://strchurch.org/site-content>

# Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

The liturgical color today is green representing the growth of the church!

**“ We Gather In God’s Presence...”**

## Greeting and Ministry Updates

### Call to Worship

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

**Amen!**

### Prayer

### Song

**‘In the Sanctuary’**

*Carr*

**We lift our hands in the sanctuary  
We lift our hands to give You the glory  
We lift our hands to give You the praise  
And we will praise You for the rest of our days  
Yes, we will praise You for the rest of our days**

**We clap our hands in the sanctuary  
We clap our hands to give You the glory  
We clap our hands to give You the praise  
And we will praise You for the rest of our days  
Yes, we will praise You for the rest of our days**

**We sing our song in the sanctuary  
We sing our song to give You the glory  
We sing our song to give You the praise  
And we will praise You for the rest of our days  
Yes, we will praise You for the rest of our days**

**Jesus, we give You the praise  
Emmanuel, we lift up Your name  
Heavenly Father, coming Messiah  
And we will praise You for the rest of our days  
Yes, we will praise You for the rest of our days**

**Hallelujah in the sanctuary  
Hallelujah! We give You the glory  
Hallelujah! We give You the praise  
And we will praise You for the rest of our days  
Yes, we will praise You for the rest of our days**

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

**God of truth, hear our prayer. When we follow those desires that control us; when we live for ourselves, shutting the gifts of those around us; when we think we do not need to share love, hope and peace with others, forgive us, Lord. You have chosen to adopt us as your children, making us inheritors with Jesus of your grace and joy. So lead us by the Spirit, that we might follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into creation which groans for love and healing....**

**Song: 'Open the Eyes of My Heart'**

*Baloche*

**Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You**

**To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy**

**Holy, holy, holy (3x)  
I want to see You**

**Words of Assurance and Hope**

**Song**

**‘Holy Ground’**

*Davis*

**We are standing on holy ground  
And I know that there  
Are angels all around  
Let us praise Jesus now  
We are standing in God’s presence  
On holy ground**

**As we worship today  
We sense God’s presence  
And we know this is a place  
Where love abounds  
For here in this place  
We know the Lord is with us  
We are standing in God’s presence  
On holy ground**

**...To Hear God’s Word...**

**Scripture Reading**

**Genesis 28:10 - 19a**

**Message**

**“The Nearer Hand of God”**

*(Genesis Sermon Series 3 of 7)*

Rev. Fred Northup

## ...And Respond with Gratitude

Offering

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

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**

**Hymn**

**'How Great Is Our God'**

*Tomlin*

**The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty  
Let all the Earth rejoice, all the Earth rejoice  
Our God is wrapped in light, and darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at the voice, trembles at the voice**

**How great is our God, sing with me  
How great is our God, and all will see  
How great, how great is our God**

**From age to age God stands, and time is in God's hands  
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end  
The Godhead, three in One; Creator, Spirit, Son  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb**

**Name above all names, worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing, how great is our God**

## **Benediction**

### **Choral Benediction "Prayer of Dedication"**

*Besig/Price/Tomer*

**Go with us, Lord, as now we depart  
Calming the fears that trouble each heart**

Keep us all in your grace  
Until we come, again, to this place  
God be with you till we meet again  
Loving counsels guide, uphold you  
With a shepherd's care enfold you  
God be with you till we meet again

## GIVING THANKS:

### Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Rev. Fred Northup
Liturgist:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Amy & Dave Himes, Rachel & Tate DeWalt, Tama McConnell
Virtual Choir:	Lori Abbotts, Joy Aird, Geoffrey Barnard, Will Howe, Colleen Imbriale, Andrea Lee, Steve Mange, Fred Northup, Julie Northup, Jeff Smith, Judy Spurrell, Bonnie Troutman, Penny Woods
Audio/Video:	James Anderson, James Cobb

**WELCOME ...** to everyone joining in worship this morning.

**It is a gift to have Rev. Fred Northup** back in the pulpit this morning. Fred is a retired Episcopal priest who has served congregations in Memphis, Paris, New York City and Lake Charles, Louisiana. He served as Dean of St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle for ten years. Following his retirement, he founded a nonprofit organization, Athletes for a Better World ([abw.org](http://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.

# **INTRODUCING: St. Thomas Reformed Church's 2020 Virtual Summer Camp**

**Greetings STRC Summer Camp Family!**

**Though we all wanted to be gathered on the beach at Magens Bay just like any normal summer, 2020 has been anything but “normal”!**

**It was a tough decision to host STRC Summer camp as a virtual program, but the safety and well-being of our camp family has always been our top priority. While we cannot be together during this time, we could not fathom the idea of not having any connection with you for more than a year!**

**We have worked hard to put together this virtual program – accessible on our Facebook page.**

<https://www.facebook.com/STRC-Summer-Camp/live>

**The videos will also be posted to the St. Thomas Reformed Church's YouTube Channel**

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCvFA8vUToP3W257eL8pf4pw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvFA8vUToP3W257eL8pf4pw)



**Beginning July 20 2020, STRC Summer Camp will share a thirty minute video to our Facebook page at 9 a.m. AST every weekday until Friday, July 31, 2020! Just like any other day of camp at Magens Bay, the daily videos will include Bible study, singing, drama, games, arts & crafts and recreation/physical activity.**

**Campers can interact with camp staff LIVE during the broadcast of the video! We encourage campers to revisit the video after it has premiered to enjoy each activity at their own pace.**

**LIVE ZOOM VIRTUAL LUNCH BUNCH – Join other campers and camp staff for a virtual lunch every day from 12 to 1 p.m. AST.**

**Email [summercamp@strchurch.org](mailto:summercamp@strchurch.org) to request access to the Zoom meeting.**

**Whatever God created us to be,  
He wants us to just “bee”.....**

**This year’s STRC Summer Camp is free of charge and open to all! Please “share” this post with your friends and family. #STRCathome**

**The Ladies Bible Study** is continuing to meet this summer on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm using Zoom. We will be studying the lectionary series posted in the bulletin. 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:

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or  
Psalm 128; 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136;  
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**Contact Information**

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