

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



***July 25, 2021***

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

*Sunday 10:00 a.m.*

# Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

*The liturgical color today is green representing the mission of the church!*

## “We Gather In God’s Presence...”

### Greeting and Ministry Updates

Introit

“Come to the Meeting Place”

Nix

Come to the meeting place  
Grace is there to greet you  
Lift high a shout of praise  
Make a joyful noise  
Where there are two or three  
We will worship Christ the Lord  
Come to the meeting place  
Let us all rejoice

Come to the meeting place  
Jesus bids us gather  
This day the Lord has made  
Raise a joyful voice  
Come to the meeting place  
Everyone is welcome  
Here in this sacred space  
Love will be our choice

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let each heart and voice be raised  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Come to the meeting place

### Call to Worship (*Psalm 145:13b-14, 17-19*)

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

**Amen!**

The Lord is trustworthy and true,

**Faithful in all of God’s ways.**

The Lord upholds all who are falling,

**And brings us up when we are brought low.**

The Lord is just in all ways,

**Faithful in all things.**

The Lord is close to everyone who calls upon God;

**God hears our cries and will save us.**

Prayer

**\*Hymn**

**'Your Servant Comes This Hour'**

*FESTAL SONG*

Your servant comes this hour  
In true humility  
Believing in your call, O God  
And answering, "Lord, send me."

Your servant stands this day  
Implanted in the Word  
Prepared to share the holy truth  
Proclaim it lamp and sword

Your servant kneels in prayer  
Awaiting from above  
The touch which sets their life apart  
For ministries of love

Your servant loves this place  
With confidence secure  
And by the Holy Spirit bears  
The fruit that shall endure

## **Call to Confession**

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord...

**Response**

**'Your Life Was Given for Me'**

*KENOSIS*

Your life was given for me  
Your blood, O Lord, was shed  
That I might ransomed be  
And quickened from the dead  
Your life, Your life was given for me  
What have I given for Thee?  
Your life, Your life was given for me  
What have I given for Thee?

And You have brought to me  
Down from Your home above  
Salvation full and free  
Your pardon and Your love  
Great gifts, great gifts You brought to me  
What have I brought to Thee?  
Great gifts, great gifts You brought to me  
What have I brought to Thee?

## Words of Assurance and Hope

While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.

**Amen!**

To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen & Amen!**

## Musical Offering

### “What You Believe”

*Himes*

Do you want to give?  
Do you want to receive?  
It depends on what you want to believe

And a great crowd of people followed Him  
Because they saw the signs He had performed  
By healing the sick

Taking the five loaves and the two fish  
Looking up to heaven  
He gave thanks, and broke the loaves

Then he gave them to the disciples  
And the disciples gave them to the people  
They all ate, and were satisfied

Do you want to give?  
Do you want to receive?  
It depends on what you want to believe

## Children's Message

### Hymn

### ‘They Came, a Milling Crowd’

ST. THOMAS

**They came, a milling crowd  
And gathered round the Lord  
He loved them with a shepherd's heart  
And fed them with his Word**

And then, when evening came  
They hungered, and were fed  
From offered loaves he blessed and broke  
And made their living bread

How great the mystery  
The loaves were multiplied  
And still we feed upon the crumbs  
And still are satisfied

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

Scripture

John 6:1-15

Message

“Aim Higher!”

## And Respond With Gratitude...

Offering

*(You are invited to bring your gifts to the altar and place them in the offering plates or in the box by the front Sanctuary door. Online giving is also available at [www.strcgiving.org](http://www.strcgiving.org))*

Offertory

“Fade With Our Voices”

Gray/Ingram

Tate DeWalt, soloist

After all the songs are sung  
And our prayers for Kingdom come  
Did we bring honor to the words we sing?

Chorus:

Does our worship have hands?  
Does it have feet?  
Does it stand up in the face of injustice?  
Does our worship bow down?  
Does it run deep?  
Is it more than a song  
That fades with our voices?  
Does it fade with our voices?

Lord, it's you we long to please  
Make our lives a melody  
That we proclaim  
When we live in Jesus name (*chorus*)

So if we raise our hands high  
Let us also reach them out  
And if we lift our voices up  
Let it be the sound of love

Let our worship have hands  
Let it have feet  
Let it stand tall in the face of injustice  
Let our worship bow down  
Let it run deep,  
And be more than a song  
That fades with our voices  
It's more than a song  
That fades with our voices  
It won't fade with our voices

### **\*Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

### **Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer**

#### **\*Hymn**

#### **'Take My Life'**

*Havergal*

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee  
Take my moments and my days  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee  
Swift and beautiful for thee

Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee  
Filled with messages from thee

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At thy feet its treasure store  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for thee  
Ever, only, all for thee

## Benediction

### GIVING THANKS:

#### Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Liturgist:	Chantal Figueroa
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Belinda Benjamin Rachel Himes DeWalt, Tate DeWalt Amy Stewart Himes, Dave Himes Tama McConnell, Kelly Neevel
Live Stream Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Lucy Sutton, Dave Whitter

**A warm welcome to our visitors!** You are invited to complete the visitor registration forms on the back table. Please then place them in the offering box.

**Bathrooms** for the congregation's use are in the Undercroft and inside the gate going to Bakery Square.

### Lectionary Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15  
Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

**Save the Date:** Jazz Vespers Sunday, August 1 Join us here in the **Sanctuary from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, August 1st**, for a **very special musical event; 'Jazz Vespers' featuring Dion Parson & Friends**, with STRC vocalists and musical guests! Enjoy an inspiring afternoon/evening of jazz & gospel with some of the best musicians around. This will be the first in a series of musical events at STRC; it's a wonderful opportunity for us to reconnect with each other, and to get reacquainted with the wider island community. Light refreshments will be served; come for the entire time, or just pop in & out as your schedule permits--but don't miss it!! All Covid-19 protocols will be followed. For more info, contact Chanelle.

**A Memorial Service** to celebrate the life of Marshall Hartmann will be held in our sanctuary this **Saturday July 31 at 2pm** followed by a burial service at Botany Bay (Shuttle service to the property will be provided from the main gate) and a celebration of life at the Hartmann home.

**SUMMER CAMP 2021** "All Good Gifts!" wraps up this week. Check out our "STRC Summer Camp" Facebook page for more info. Join us next Sunday for a special Summer Camp tribute and celebration!

**Director:** Brittany Bryan

**Teachers:** Rachel Himes DeWalt, Tate DeWalt, Amy Stewart Himes, Haley Jennings, Tama McConnell, Roxanne Rhymer

**Group Leaders:** Jaela Auguste, Nashibo Benjamin, Jessica Gibs, Sonrisa O'Neal

**Swim Staff:** Natalia Figueroa, Maddison Wyatt

**Floating Jr. Counselor:** Chantel Carty, Gabriel Christian, Dalen Rhymer, Diego Villegas

**STRC is excited** to welcome a **new Co-pastor** to work alongside Pastor Jeff. Pastor Ben Rowe and his family (wife: Emily; children: Christine, Gwendolyn, Lydia, & William) arrive on St Thomas on August 7. His official start date is August 16. Please keep Pastor Ben & his family in your prayers as they make this move to become part of our historic church and vibrant faith family!

**Join Rev. Rebecca Broom** as she tells the story of "Creation".

From Young Children and Worship © 1989 Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman

Here is the link. [https://youtu.be/V\\_auikDcv8](https://youtu.be/V_auikDcv8)