

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



July 4, 2021

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

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

The liturgical color today is green for the growth and mission of the church.

“We Gather In God’s Presence…”

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Introit

“Freedom is Coming”

Lock

Oh, freedom, freedom is coming
Oh yes, I know
Freedom is coming
My spirit knows freedom is coming
Oh yes, I know

Call to Worship

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

Amen!

Praise God from the highest mountains!

Praise God from the depths of the sea!

Praise God with loud instruments!

Praise God with the voice of our hearts!

Praise God in all things, at all times, in all ways,

For our God reigns over the whole earth.

Come, worship God, all nations, tribes, and peoples:

For God is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Prayer

Hymn

‘Lift Every Voice and Sing’

Johnson

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won

Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that, with tears, has been watered
We have come, treading our path
Through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land

Call to Confession - *based on 1 John 2:1-2*

Responsive Prayer of Confession

O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ.

We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibilities in our service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

Response

“We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness”

PASSION CHORALE

We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness	We long to have companions
And for your healing touch	Who travel by our side
Too long have we felt helpless	Strong friends to call and answer
Our burdens seemed too much	With whom we are allied
Forgetting all pretenses	As we lift up each other
We make our pleadings heard	When struggles lay us low
In hope and expectation	Community develops
Await your gracious Word	Our faith and caring grow

Words of Assurance and Hope (*from Romans 8:38-39*)

Musical Offering

“Let Me Be the One”

Mason

Dr. Ronald Nimmo

Let me be the one to carry Your light
To those in darkness
Let mine be the lips to tell
Of Your goodness and mercy
Let mine be the hands
To comfort the hurting ones
O Lord, let me be the one You want me to be
So that they can see You in me

Let me be the one to show Your love
To those without love
Let Your words be mine and let all
That I say bring You glory
Open the eyes of the lost
So they too may believe
O Lord, let me be the one You want me to be
So that they can see You in me

Sweet is the sound of an empty heart
Being filled with the fullness of You
Tender the touch of Your healing hands
On the wounds of a spirit made new
So deep was the love You gave freely to me
In spite of my weakness and all that I've done

Let me be someone who learns to forgive
As You've forgiven me
Let mine be a heart more faithful to You
With every moment
For how will they know if Your light
Doesn't shine through me
O Lord, let me be the one You want me to be
So that they can see You in me

Children's Message

Hymn

'Bring Forth the Kingdom'

Haugen

**You are salt for the earth, O people
Salt for the Kingdom of God
Share the flavor of life, O people
Life in the Kingdom of God**

Chorus

**Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice
Bring forth the City of God**

**You are a light on the hill, O people
Light for the City of God
Shine so holy and bright, O people
Shine for the Kingdom of God (*chorus*)**

You are a seed of the Word, O people
Bring forth the Kingdom of God
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice
Grow in the Kingdom of God (*chorus*)

We are a blest and a pilgrim people
Bound for the Kingdom of God
Love our journey and love our homeland
Love is the Kingdom of God (*chorus*)

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

Scripture

Mark 6:1-13

Message

“We Will Get There!”

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)

Offertory

“We Can Be Kind”

Friedman

Andrea Lee, Soloist

So many things we can't control	Chorus: We can be kind
So many hurts that happen everyday	We can take care of each other
So many heartaches that pierce the soul	We can remember that deep
So much pain that won't ever go away	down inside
How do we make it better?	We all need the same things
How do we make it through?	And maybe we'll find
What can we do	If we are there for each other
When there's nothing we can do?	That together we'll weather
	Whatever tomorrow may bring

Nobody really wants to fight
Nobody really wants to go to war
If everyone wants to make things right
What are we always fighting for?
Does nobody want to see it?
Does nobody understand?
The power to heal
Is right here in our hand (*chorus*)

***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!**

A Celebration of Communion

(All who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome at the table. Beginning with the back pews, you are invited to come forward using the side aisles, to take a communion cup back to your seat using the center aisle.)

Music

“The Blessing”

Waller/Denning

Let it be said of us
While we walked among the living
Let it be said of us
By the ones we leave behind
Let it be said of us
That we lived to be a blessing for life

Let it be said of us
That we gave to reach the dying
Let it be said of us
By the fruit we leave behind
Let it be said of us
That our legacy is blessing for life

This day, You set life
You set death right before us
This day, every blessing and curse
Is a choice now
And we will choose to be a blessing
for life

Let it be said of us
That our hearts belonged to Jesus
Let it be said of us
That we spoke the words of life
Let it be said of us
That our heritage is blessing for life

'Cause blessings and curses are choices
Will we build up, tear down?
The moment of truth is now
For Your kingdom
For our children
For the sake of every nation
We will choose to be a blessing for life

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;

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 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

(The congregation is invited to stand and sing)

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**

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Dr. Ron Nimmo, Amy Steward-Himes, David Himes, Rachel & Tate DeWalt, Andrea Lee, Tama McConnell, and the Adult Choir
Live Stream Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Lucy Sutton, David Whitter

Summer Camp 2021 "All Good Gifts!" begins tomorrow!

Check out our Summer Camp Facebook page for more information !

www.facebook.com/STRCsummercamp

Camp is being held at shed #3 Magens Bay 8:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Welcome to our off-island staff. Please pray for all our staff and especially for all of the children whose lives will be forever impacted by the good gift of Christ we share with them.

Director: Brittany Bryan

Teachers: Rachel & Tate DeWalt, Amy Stewart-Himes, Haley Jennings, Tama McConnell and Roxanne Rhymer

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

Swim Staff: Natalia Figueroa and Maddison Wyatt

Floating Jr. Counselor: Dalen Rhymer and 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) plan to arrive on St Thomas 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!

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.

The offering box is located on the small table at the back of the church. The online link is STRCGIVING.ORG

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

The church office will be closed on Mondays.

Join Rev. Rebecca Broom in STRC's worship center as she tells the story of the Good Samaritan. From Young Children and Worship. © 1989 Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman Here is the link.

<https://youtu.be/osjH-MVgo-s>

Lectionary Scripture Readings for this week

**2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Amos 7:7-15;
Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29**

Contact Information

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