

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



May 2, 2021

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

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Easter

The liturgical color today is white in celebration of our risen Lord!

“We Gather In God’s Presence...”

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Introit **“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”** *Dearmer/Schaffer*

**Draw us in the Spirit’s tether, for when humbly in Your name
Two or three are met together, You are in the midst of them
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen**

**As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup
Then, with thanks to God the giver, break the bread and share the cup
Alleluia... Amen**

**All our meals and all our living make as sacraments to You
That by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true
Alleluia... Amen**

Call to Worship *(from 1 John 4:7-8, 11-12)*

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

Amen!

Beloved, let us love one another,

Because love is from God;

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Beloved, since God loved us so much,

We also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another,

God lives in us, and God’s love is perfected in us.

Come, worship God, who is love,

And follow Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer

I come with joy to meet my Lord
Forgiven, loved and free
In awe and wonder to recall
His life laid down for me

I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share
Each proud division ends
That love that made us makes us one
And strangers now are friends

And thus with joy we meet our Lord
His presence always near
Is in such friendship better known
We see and praise Him here

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Author of Life, You have written love into the beginning of our stories. You have written love into the blood that flows in our veins, into our very DNA, for we are made in Your image and You are love. We confess that we have strayed from the story You intended for us, so Lord, help us find our way back. Forgive us for the ways we have fallen short of Your glory and for the times our lives have not given forth fruit. Open our hearts to love more deeply. In Christ we pray...

Response

“Abide with Me”

EVENTIDE

**Abide with me; fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens, God, with me abide
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, O abide with me**

**I need Thy presence every passing hour
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s power
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
O, Thou who changest not, abide with me**

Words of Assurance and Hope

Hymn

‘Have Thine Own Way’

ADELAIDE

**Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way
Thou art the potter, I am the clay
Mold me and make me after thy will
While I am waiting, yielded and still**

**Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way
Search me and try me, Savior, today
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now
As in thy presence humbly I bow**

**Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way
Hold o’er my being absolute sway
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me**

...To Hear God’s Word...

Scripture

John 15:1-8

Message

“In Repair!”

And Respond With Gratitude...

Offering

Offertory

“A Place at the Table”

Alexander/Kirkland

Lori Abbotts & Andrea Lee

There's a place, a place at His table
For those who thirst to be restored
There's a place, a place at His table
A seat beside Christ evermore

There's a place, a place at His table
For those who hunger for His truth
There's a place, a place at this table
A place that is waiting just for you

For each soul there's a chair 'round this table of gold
For those who long to just be close

There's a place, a place at His table
For those who long just to be close
There's a place, a place at His table
A place where the faithful find their hope

There's a place, a place at His table
For those who long to be restored
There's a place, a place at His table
A place for the faithful evermore

***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!

***The Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Christian Church
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen**

A Celebration of Communion

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
Liturgist: Jamon Liburd
Music: Chanelle Schaffer, Lori Abbotts, Andrea Lee
Live Stream Team: James Anderson, James Cobb,
Andrea King, Lucy Sutton

Lectionary Scripture Readings for this week:

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

The Choir is BACK!

Thanks to the updated recommendations from the CDC,
the STRC Adult Choir will resume rehearsals,
starting Thursday, May 13th
from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
in the Sanctuary!
All are welcome--
the only requirement for membership
is the ability to match pitch--no previous experience necessary!
Join us as we make a joyful noise
to the Lord in a wide variety of styles and genres.
For more info, contact Chanelle
at music@stthomasreformedchurch.org

The Ladies Bible Study is continuing to meet
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.

Temperature Takers Needed for the Summer

We are delighted to have the opportunity to worship together in person again, but we do need to continue to follow safety protocols in order to continue having the freedom to gather. We are looking for a team of rotating volunteers who would be willing to take temperatures for Sunday morning worship. If you are interested in this opportunity to serve our congregation, please call or email Kim Dennis at 952-212-1783 or kdennis426@gmail.com.

Contact Information

Mailing Address PO Box 301769 St. Thomas, VI 00803

Website: <https://strchurch.org/>

Email: mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org

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