

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



*November 15, 2020*

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

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# Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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

**“ We Gather In God’s Presence...”**

## Greeting and Ministry Opportunities

### Call to Worship

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

**Amen!**

God is the Creator of the Heavens and Earth;

**God has made everything, and given it to us.**

Jesus is our Redeemer, our Savior, our Friend;

**Jesus has come to show us God’s love, and teaches us to love one another.**

The Holy Spirit moves in us, brings us together, and guides us in life;

**The Spirit reminds us that everything comes from God.**

Let us share in all of the good gifts of God:

**Let us worship our God together as one.**

### Prayer

#### Song

**‘Love Divine, All Loves Excelling’**

*BEECHER*

Love divine, all loves excelling  
Joy of heav'n to earth come down  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling  
All thy faithful mercies crown  
Jesus, thou art all compassion  
Pure, unbounded love thou art  
Visit us with thy salvation  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
Into ev'ry troubled breast  
Let us all in thee inherit  
Let us find thy promised rest  
Take away our love of sinning  
Alpha and Omega be  
End of faith, as its Beginning  
Set our hearts at liberty**

**Come, Almighty to deliver  
Let us all thy life receive  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore thy temples leave  
Thee we would be always blessing  
Serve thee as thy hosts above  
Pray and praise thee without ceasing  
Glory in thy perfect love**

**Finish, then, thy new creation  
Pure and spotless let us be  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in thee  
Changed from glory into glory  
'Til in heav'n we take our place  
'Til we cast our crowns before thee  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise**

## **Call to Confession**

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

**Eternal One, we confess that we are short-sighted. We put ourselves before others and are worried we don't have enough, while others around us go without. We call ourselves religious, but fail to be concerned for justice for our neighbors. We fear losing what we have, rather than living into God's ways and trusting in God's love and justice.**

**Forgive us for our fears that hold us back, from our assumptions that cause us to not see the needs around us, and for the times we miss the mark. Call us back into Your ways. In the name of Christ, our Redeemer and Friend, we pray. Amen.**

**Song**

**'I Offer My Life'**

*Moen/Cloninger*

**All that I am, all that I have  
I lay them down before You, O Lord  
All my regrets, all my acclaim  
The joy and the pain  
I'm making them Yours**

**Lord, I offer my life to You  
Everything I've been through  
Use it for Your glory  
Lord, I offer my days to You  
Lifting my praise to You  
As a pleasing sacrifice  
Lord, I offer You my life**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Song**

**'Count Your Blessings'**

*Oatman/Excell*

**When upon life's billows  
You are tempest tossed  
When you are discouraged  
Thinking all is lost  
Count your many blessings  
Name them one by one  
And it will surprise you  
What the Lord hath done**

## **Chorus**

**Count your blessings, name them one by one  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done  
Count your blessings, name them one by one  
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done**

**When you look at others  
With their lands and gold  
Think that Christ has promised  
You His wealth untold  
Count your many blessings  
Money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven  
Nor your home on high (*chorus*)**

**So amid the conflict  
Whether great or small  
Do not be discouraged  
God is over all  
Count your many blessings  
Angels will attend  
Help and comfort give you  
To your journey's end (*chorus*)**

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

**Scripture Reading          Matthew 25: 14 - 30**

**Message                  "Squeezing Out Abundant Life!"**

**...And Respond with Gratitude**

**Offering**

Offertory

“The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm”

Cobb

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures  
He leadeth me beside still waters  
He restoreth my soul  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake  
Yea, though I walk  
Through the valley of the shadow of death  
I will fear no evil  
For Thou art with me  
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me  
Thou preparest a table before me  
In the presence of mine enemies  
Thou anointest my head with oil  
My cup runneth over  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

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

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

‘Christ, Be Our Light’

Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to You  
Make us Your own, Your holy people  
Light for the world to see

**Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts  
Shine through the darkness  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in Your church gathered today**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled  
Longing for hope, many despair  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us  
Make us your living voice (*chorus*)**

**Many the gifts, many the people  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong  
Let us be servants to one another  
Making Your kingdom come (*chorus*)**

## **Benediction**

**Choral Response “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**

**Children and Worship series introduction: “The Light”**

## **GIVING THANKS:**

### **Leading Worship Today:**

Ministers: All of us viewing together  
Preaching: Pastor Jeffrey Neevel  
Music: Chanelle Schaffer  
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  
Live Stream Team: James Anderson, James Cobb, Lucy Sutton

**WELCOME ... thank you for your faithful following  
of our online services and commitment to  
worshipping the Lord each week with us.**

**The Ladies Bible Study** is continuing to meet this summer on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm using Zoom. 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:

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100  
Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46**



## Consistory Nominating Committee

Dear STRC family,

There are two vacant positions on consistory for the coming year, (1 *Deacon*, 1 *Elder*). A nominating committee has been asked to collect names of active members to submit for approval. Elders and deacons, along with the minister of Word and Sacrament, comprise the consistory. **Deacons** are men or women who are called by God and uplifted by the church as those who are leaders in ministries of service, mercy and outreach. **Elders** are men or women who are called by God and uplifted by the church as those who are leaders in ministries of discipleship, worship and spiritual oversight. Please share with the members of the nominating committee your input as to whom you believe would serve our congregation well as an elder or deacon. The committee is in need of and is expecting your prayerful participation in this process! Feel free to contact any of the committee members listed below to nominate an active STRC member.

**Bob Stolz 703-303-9281 Robert.stolz@gmail.com**  
**Sarah Hancock 340-643-1497 sarahfoxvi@gmail.com**  
**Mary Howe 340-514-9499 mhowe54@gmail.com**

## Contact Information

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