

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



# First Sunday *of* Advent

November 29, 2020

We Welcome One and All  
In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!  
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# First Sunday of Advent

The liturgical color today is purple as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.

## “ We Gather In God’s Presence...”

Greeting & Announcements

Chantal Figueroa

Song

‘O Come, Let Us Adore Him’

*Traditional*

**O come, let us adore Him: Christ the Lord  
Come, shine Your light in darkness: Christ the Lord**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** (*Hope*)

The Figueroa family

**Speaker 1:** Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

**Speaker 2:** “Stir up your might, and come to save us. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved” (Psalm 80:2b-3).

*The first candle is lit.*

**Speaker 3:** Light one candle; see it glow  
Brightly, so that all may know  
How one candle shows the way  
Making our darkness bright as God’s day.

**Speaker 4:** Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Let us pray: Dear God, on this first Sunday in Advent, let this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter, so that we will be ready for your face to shine upon us at Christmas. In the Savior’s name we pray. Amen.

Come, O long-expected Jesus  
Born to set your people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Christ, in whom our rest shall be  
You, our strength and consolation  
Come, salvation to impart  
Dear desire of many a nation  
Joy of many a longing heart

Born your people to deliver  
Born a child, and yet a king  
Born to reign in us forever  
Born your gracious realm to bring  
By your own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By your all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to your glorious throne

### Call to Confession

#### Responsive Prayer of Confession and Hope

God of all hopefulness, we prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, confessing our attraction to a godless world that does not know Christ.

**Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, and keep us faithful for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

God sent Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show God's infinite love and forgiveness for all.

**Loving Lord, mold us and fashion us into the image of Christ.**

Hear the good news: In Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**Alleluia and Amen!**

**Song**

**'Come By Here'**

*Spiritual*

**Come by here, my Lord, come by here (3x)  
Oh, Lord, come by here**

**We are waiting, Lord, come by here (3x)  
Oh, Lord, come by here**

**You're our hope, O Lord, come by here (3x)  
Oh, Lord, come by here**

**Dwell among us, Lord, come by here (3x)  
Oh, Lord, come by here**

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

**Scripture Reading**

**Isaiah 11**

**Message**

**"A Peaceful Kingdom"** Rev. Nate Schipper

**...And Respond with Gratitude**

**Offering**

**Offertory**

**"Breath of Heaven"**

*Grant/Eaton*

Grace King

**I have traveled many moonless nights  
Cold and weary with a babe inside  
And I wonder what I've done  
Holy Father, You have come  
And chosen me now to carry Your Son**

I am waiting in a silent prayer  
I am frightened by the load I bear  
In a world as cold as stone  
Must I walk this path alone  
Be with me now, be with me now

Breath of Heaven, hold me together  
Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven  
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness  
Pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy  
Breath of Heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face  
If a wiser one should have had my place  
But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan  
Help me be strong, help me be, help me

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Song 'Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming'

*Pleading Savior*

Christians all, your Lord is coming  
Drawing near in holy birth  
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets  
Let your music fill the earth  
Dance and move to show God's glory  
Kneel and pause to hear God's Word  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Rise and let your songs be heard

**Christians all, your Lord is coming  
Calling you to serve in deed  
See the ones who hurt and suffer  
Hear their cry, and act with speed  
Set all selfish ways behind you  
Purge your hearts of sinful greed  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ in you will meet their need**

**Christians all, your Lord is coming  
Hope for peace is now at hand  
Let there be no hesitation  
Walk in faith where life demands  
Bear the Word that God has given  
Share the birth that stirs your soul  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ will come and make you whole**

### **Benediction**

**Children & Worship series begins:  
“Advent 1 - The Prophets Show the Way to Bethlehem!”**

#### **GIVING THANKS:**

##### **Leading Worship Today:**

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Reverend Nate Schipper
Liturgist:	Chantal Figueroa
Advent Wreath:	Figueroa Family
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Grace King
Live Stream Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Lucy Sutton

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

### **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 out-reach. **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.

**Nominations will be accepted until**  
**December 6, 2020.**

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

**The Ladies Bible Study** is continuing to meet this **FALL** 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:

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

### **Contact Information**

**Mailing Address PO Box 301769 St. Thomas, VI 00803**

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