

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



September 19, 2021

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

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Seventeenth 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

“As the Deer”

Nystrom

As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after You
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You

You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy-giver
All that treasure cannot buy

Call to Worship

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

Amen!

Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

We long to hear God’s Word spoken to our hearts.

Who among you is seeking God’s bright and holy truth?

We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.

Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

We long to live lives of holiness and light.

God grants wisdom generously to all who ask. Come near,
people of God!

Let us worship in wisdom and truth.

Prayer

Lord, we hear your Word with gladness
You have spoken - we rejoice
Words of love and life and freedom
Help us make their truth our choice
Now in holy celebration
For your Word we worship you
Spoken, written, known in Jesus
Ours today to prove anew

May we hear with understanding
By your Spirit taught and led
May the springs of all our being
By your living Word be fed
May our hearts accept with meekness
All the grace your light makes known
May obedience mark our footsteps
Till we make each word our own

You have spoken; yours the fullness
Ours the wealth of this, your Word
Debtors, then, as living letters
We must make your gospel heard
By your Spirit's power transform us
Shed your saving light abroad
Till our lives by love in action
Show our world the truth of God

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we often think we know what is best. We go our own way instead of Yours. We fill our own needs before the needs of others. We speak to suit our mind instead of Your will. We take without question and use without thought. Forgive us when we rely on our own wisdom instead of Yours. Forgive us when we ignore the injustices our greed and desire for dominance have created. Forgive us when our words cut and hurt and harm instead of lift up and heal and renew. Amend what we are, direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in Your wisdom and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Through Christ our Lord we pray...

I will delight in the law of the Lord
 I will meditate day and night
 Then like a tree firmly planted I'll be
 Grounded in Your Word

Chorus:

Blessed is the one who follows
 The way of the Lord
 Blessed is the one

Words of Assurance and Hope

Friends, hear the good news! God comes to those who welcome even a child in the name of Jesus.

We receive God when we receive Jesus and the children he loves.

Friends, believe the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Now live in peace and show wisdom and understanding by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom, in Christ. Amen.

Choral Response**"The First Psalm"**

Choplin

Blessed are the ones who do not follow
 The counsel of the wicked
 Nor follow in the way that sinners tread
 Nor join with the scoffers
 But they delight in the Word of the Lord
 And they meditate on it through the day and night
 Blessed are the ones who love the Lord

Blessed are the ones, like the trees
 That are planted by the flowing river
 They will bear good fruit, they will not wither
 They prosper in all they do
 For they delight in the Word of the Lord
 And they meditate on it through the day and night
 Blessed are the ones who love the Lord

Hymn

‘How Good Is Life, and Length of Days’ O WALY WALY

How good is life, and length of days
Far happier, when we learn God’s praise
Though strength or skills may bring us fame
Our best rewards are in God’s name

Designs and colors please our eyes
God’s wisdom brings a richer prize
Fine music makes the heart rejoice
But better far, to hear God’s voice

What joy are friends, and health restored
What greater joy, to love the Lord
To govern is a noble thing
But better far, to serve the King

... To Hear God’s Word...

Scripture

Psalm 1

Message

“The Logical Choice”

Pastor Jeff Neevel

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

“Great Is the Lord”
D.J. Parson & Chanelle Schaffer

Smith, arr Keveren

***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 and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

'Leaning On the Everlasting Arms'

Hoffman/Showalter

What a fellowship, what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning
Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way
Leaning on the everlasting arms
O how bright the path grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms (*Refrain*)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near
Leaning on the everlasting arms (*Refrain*)

Benediction

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Liturgist:	Pastor Ben Rowe
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Lori Abbotts, Andrea Lee, and D.J. Parson
Greeter:	Chantal Figueroa
Live Stream Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Lucy Sutton, Dave Whitter

Welcome and thank you for joining with us in worship.

STRC's **Children & Worship Virtual Series** is complete! A HUGE thank you to Rev. Rebecca Broom and Bridget Gallagher for countless hours recording and telling these precious stories which are now preserved for generations to enjoy. The entire collection of forty videos is available on our YouTube channel.

(Click on "playlists: Children & Worship").

Next Sunday we invite you to celebrate the **Installation** of Pastor Ben Rowe to the ministry of the St. Thomas Reformed Church as Pastor of Congregational Formation.

At this time, **worship attendance** is limited to fifty people. Please sign up to reserve a seat using this link:

<https://bit.ly/strctogetheragain>.

We look forward to seeing you in worship either in person or online!

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalms 124; Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Psalms 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Contact Information

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