

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



*September 26, 2021*

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

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

# Eighteenth 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

#### Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 124)*

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

**Amen!**

We gather together in praise and worship of our Faithful God,  
because our help and hope rests always in the Lord our God.

**We bring our praises and thankful responses to our Saving God**

Blessed be the Lord our God, who is our security and home, and  
whose mercy and grace frees us from all that traps us.

**Blessings, reverent honor and glory be to the Lord our God.**

We come together to praise and worship our ever-loving God,  
because we are confident of God’s generous care over us.

**Our eternal trust is in the name of the Lord our God, who is our  
Maker, our Savior, and our timeless Home.**

### Prayer

#### \*Hymn

#### ‘God Is Love’

HYFRYDOL

God is love, let heaven adore You  
God is love, let earth rejoice  
Let creation sing before You  
And exalt You with one voice  
God who laid the earth's foundation  
God who spread the heav'ns above  
God who breathes through all creation  
God is love, eternal love

God is love, and love enfolds us  
All the world in one embrace  
With unfailing grasp God holds us  
Ev'ry child of ev'ry race  
And when human hearts are breaking  
Under sorrow's iron rod  
Then we find that selfsame aching  
Deep within the heart of God

God is love, and though with blindness  
Sin afflicts all human life  
God's eternal loving-kindness  
Guides us through our earthly strife  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
O'er us final triumph gain  
God is love, so love forever  
O'er the universe must reign

## Call to Confession

### Unison Prayer of Confession

O God, we confess the blindness that is not even aware of sinning;  
the pride that dares not admit that it is wrong;  
the selfishness that can see nothing but its own will;  
the righteousness that knows no fault;  
the callousness that has ceased to care;  
the defiance that does not regret its own sins;  
the evasion that always tries to make excuses;  
the coldness of heart that is too hardened to repent.  
God, we are sinners; be merciful to us...

## Response

### 'Fill My Cup, Lord'

*Blanchard*

Like the woman at the well, I was seeking  
For things that could not satisfy  
And then, I heard my Savior speaking  
'Draw from my well that never shall run dry'

### Chorus

Fill my cup Lord; I lift it up, Lord  
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul  
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more  
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole

So my friend, if all the things this world gave you  
Leave hungers that won't pass away  
My blessed Lord will come and save you  
If you kneel to God and humbly pray (*chorus*)

## Words of Assurance and Hope

God's hopes for us are crystal clear. With forgiveness, God restores us to new life; with love, God sends us out to live as faithful people.

**God uses the building blocks of grace, hope, love, and peace to create new hearts, new lives for us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

## Children's Message

### Order for Service of Installation

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

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy  
Pray for the Kingdom of peace  
Work for the Kingdom of justice  
Hope for 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 9:38-50

Message

"A Cup of Cold Water"

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](http://www.strcgiving.org).)*

Offertory

**"God Is So Good/You Are Worthy"**

Barrett

No height or depth can separate  
Your steadfast love, who can escape  
Your faithfulness an endless sea  
So full of grace and mercy

Chorus:

We sing God is so good  
God is so good  
God is so good  
God's so good to me

Haunted by the past no more  
My innocence has been restored  
Forgiveness flows from Your veins  
Your kindness shown in all Your ways (*chorus*)

Oh there's never been anyone like You  
You are worthy

Hope is rising like the sun  
The old is gone, the new has come  
I fix my eyes on Christ alone  
My Rock, my Shield, my Cornerstone (*chorus*)

## Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

### Hymn 'By Grace We Have Been Saved Through Faith'

*Whitfield*

By grace, we have been saved through faith  
And not by keeping law  
God's saints believed by what they heard  
And not by what they saw

**Chorus:**

Oh, how I love Jesus  
Oh, how I love Jesus  
Oh, how I love Jesus  
Because He first loved me

For all have sinned and fallen short  
God's plan not one obeyed  
Christ has for all fulfilled the law  
Believe, confess, be saved (*chorus*)

God gave to earth a perfect love  
Through Jesus on the cross  
While we were foes, Christ died for us  
We gained by God's own loss (*chorus*)

## 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 Will Howe
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.

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

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

**Parents:** Scan the QR code



or go to [www.bit.ly/SignUpSTRC](http://www.bit.ly/SignUpSTRC)

to sign up for Children and Worship | Kids Ministry | X Y G | or Confirmation class this October.

### **'A Basket of Blessings'**

*A Warm STRC Welcome to Pastor Ben Rowe!*

A card is enclosed for you to write a word of welcome, a prayer, or a blessing to Pastor Ben. Please take a moment to fill out the card, bring it forward during the offering, and place it in the basket up front. A basket will also be available in the back of the Sanctuary if you need more time to fill it out. If you're watching at home, you're encouraged to write a note and mail it in, so that Pastor Ben can have tangible reminders of our support and love! Please join us for a Reception in the Pavilion following this morning's service. Refreshments will be shared in "To Go Bags". (*Covid safety protocols will be observed*)

**Join Rev. Rebecca Broom** on YouTube to watch the Children & Worship series. Here is the link to all forty recordings.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF-Ps5FQ5hMoj\\_WtAwcdApagDfXiu8zlz](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF-Ps5FQ5hMoj_WtAwcdApagDfXiu8zlz)

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### **Lectionary Scripture Readings**

**Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26**

**Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8**

**Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16**

