

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



September 6, 2020

We Welcome One and All!

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ

Follow our service at

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Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

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

“ 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...**

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

Call to Worship

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

Amen!

We gather here, where God would teach us:
**So we may learn to be more compassionate, so we
may be taught how to be more loving.**

We gather here, where Jesus would teach us
**The wisdom to choose forgiveness over holding a
grudge, the language of hope so we may speak to all.**

We gather here, where the Spirit imparts wisdom,
So we might know how to share grace, so we would
learn to welcome all to this Table.

Prayer

Hymn

‘God Is Here’

NETTLETON

**God is here! As we, your people
Meet to offer praise and prayer
May we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share
Here, as in the world around us
All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of your Spirit
Into open minds and hearts**

**Here our children find a welcome
In the Shepherd's flock and fold
Here, as bread and wine are taken
Christ sustains us as of old
Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore**

Lord of all, of church and kingdom
In an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel
Help us work your purpose out
Here, in this day's dedication
All we have to give, receive
We who cannot live without you
We adore you! We believe!

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Hear our prayer O Lord. We have gathered as Your people: broken, we are made whole; alone, we are welcomed into a family; forgiven, we are sent to serve. Fed, forgiven, restored, loved; this Table is our constant reminder of Your presence in our lives, of Your grace which makes us new in every moment. Forgive us our sin, Lord, and make us new... in Christ we pray...

Response

'Let Us Break Bread Together'

Spiritual

Let us break bread together on our knees (2x)

When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun
O Lord, have mercy on me

Let us praise God together on our knees (2x)

When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun
O Lord, have mercy on me

Words of Assurance and Hope

Song

'Bound Together'

Medema

Refrain:

**Well, we are bound together and and finely woven
We're bound together and finely woven
We're bound together and finely woven with love**

**Sing and dance for the morning sun
Sing and dance while the river's running
Sing and dance in the pale moonlight
Sing and dance, let your music echo in the night (*refrain*)**

**When we walk through the fire and rain
Christ will all our hope sustain
When we walk through the darkest night
Clothed in Christ, we shine, shine with heav'nly light (*refrain*)**

**Sing and dance for the Bread of Life
Sing and dance, for the Living Water
Sing and dance, for the Wine of Heav'n
Sing and dance, for God's love is so freely giv'n (*refrain*)**

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

Scripture

Exodus 12:1-14

Matthew 18:15-20

Message

"From Our Table to Yours!"

Rev. Jeff Gargano

...And Respond with Gratitude

Offering

STRCGIVING.ORG

Offertory

“All the People Said Amen”

Maher

A Celebration of Communion

(If you wish to partake as the body of Christ, we invite you to prepare the elements at home.)

COMMUNION LITURGY

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;

Jesus said, I was thirsty and you gave me drink;

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 to 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

~Liturgical Dance ~ Rev. Rebecca Broom

**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: Reverend Jeff Gargano
Liturgist: Pastor Jeff Neevel
Music: Chanelle Schaffer
Dance: Reverend Rebecca Broom
Virtual Choir: Lori Abbotts, Joy Aird, Geoffrey Barnard,
Will Howe, 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 ... to everyone joining in worship and celebrating communion this morning.

Pastor Jeff Neevel and Chanelle Schaffer are leading worship with thanks to guest preacher Rev. Jeff Gargano who will deliver the message, the STRC Virtual Choir, and liturgical dance by Rev. Rebecca Broom.

Jeff Gargano is the pastor of the Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns which continues the ministry of the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow. Prior to Tarrytown he served the St. Thomas Reformed Church (1995-2009).

Lectionary Scripture Readings for this week:
Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21;
Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

The Ladies Bible Study is continuing to meet this summer on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm using Zoom. We will be studying the lectionary series posted in the bulletin. 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.

Contact Information

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