

***“For everyone who exalts himself will
be humbled, and he who humbles himself
will be exalted.”***

Luke 14:11



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

August 31, 2025

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 25:6-7; Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1,10-16,
Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16; Luke 14:1,7-14

"WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE..."

Gathering Music

(Please take time to prepare for worship and silence your devices)

Greeting | Ministry Updates

Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: We enter into worship today believing God's welcome is for everyone.

People: We come from different places, with different stories, and with different needs.

Leader: In a world that prizes status and achievement, God's invitation is to the humble and the hungry.

People: We are invited into a place of belonging, not because of who we are, but because of who God is..

Leader: In this place, no one is a stranger. In this community, all are welcome to be fed by God's grace.

People: Let us open our hearts and find our place here today!

Leader: Jesus calls us to a new way of living, a new way of loving.

People: We commit to sharing God's radical hospitality with others, just as we have received it.

Prayer

***Hymn #2 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" Vs 1,3,4**

Ludwig van Beethoven

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

All: O God, our hearts are restless, and we have sought to quench our thirst in all the wrong places. We have dug our own broken cisterns that can hold no water. In our emptiness we have become distant from you and our neighbors. Forgive us for our disloyalty and our foolish choices. Restore us to yourself, that we may drink deeply of your life-giving grace and be renewed in your love. Amen.

Words of Assurance and Hope

Hymn #56 'For the Beauty of the Earth' Vs 1,4,5 Kocher

...TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

Children's Message -

Activity Time – Children (ages 4-10) are invited to join Deb Merrill in the Undercroft after the children's message for various guided activities. **Parents, please come pick up your children immediately after worship concludes.**

Scripture I

Psalm 112:5-10

~Andrea DeWard

- 5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
- 6 For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.
- 7 They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
- 8 Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
- 9 They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honor.
- 10 The wicked see it and are angry;
they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

Scripture II

Luke 14:7-14

-Pastor Nate

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, 9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." 12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Message

"The Invitation"

~Pastor Nate DeWard

...AND RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE"

Offering

(We give our gifts, tithes and offerings as an expression of gratitude for all of God's blessings. Giving "mites" are available at the church entrance for anyone who gives online and desires to join in the act of giving here today. Online giving is available at www.strchurch.org/give).

Scan code for online giving portal:



Offertory

***Doxology**

***Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

***Closing Song #452 "Here I am, Lord" vs. 1-3**

Schutte

***Benediction**

Notes: _____

Announcements:

Activity Time – Children (4-10) are invited to join Deb Merrill in the Undercroft after the children's message for various guided activities. Parents, please come pick up your children immediately after worship concludes.

Chanelle Schaffer Sabbatical - Next Sunday, Sept. 7, STRC will welcome CJ Grier to lead us in worship for the duration of Chanelle Schaffer's sabbatical. The people of STRC will enjoy the musical gifts of Mr. Grier, a talented and energetic musician, who Revs. Nate and Andrea DeWard have personally worked with on numerous occasions. CJ's lively style is a mix between contemporary, traditional, and gospel that is sure to bring out the best in STRC's worshipping congregation.

Consistory Update:

The consistory is evaluating whether to renew the Bakery Square lease with our landlord, Crystal Blue Operations. We are assessing our current and future needs and options for nursery, Children & Worship, and Children's Christian Education in light of our budget, current giving, and overall ministry priorities.

The consistory approved the process by which the Water Project Team will conduct a 90-day feasibility study for review and input.

Summer Camp 2026 will be overseen by the STRC Mission and Outreach Team, led by Donna Groat. Our first step in planning will be to evaluate the 2025 program with our leaders and glean insights for next year.

Planning for the Christmas Concert with Gylchris Sprauve has begun. Mark your calendars for December 7, 2025.

Please note that STRC's Operations Administrator, Vicky Gomez-Christian, is on leave until September 10th. We continue to keep Adam, Vicky, Gregory, and Gabriel in our prayers.



You're Invited

MBW Graduation

— **CLASS OF 2025** —

MBW Main Campus | ST. THOMAS, USVI
September 13th, 2025 AT 10AM

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers: All of us worshiping together
Preaching: Pastor Nate DeWard
Music: Courtney Reese, Phoebe Smith-Charles & Yolanda Thorpe
Liturgist: Andrea DeWard
Greeters: Cora Plummer & family
AV/Livestream: James Anderson, Luke Berry, James Cobb, Sinai Crenshaw & Dave Whitter

CONTACT US

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Chanelle Schaffer -	Minister of Music and Arts (On Sabbatical) music@stthomasreformedchurch.org
Vicky Gomez-Christian-	Operations Administrator (On leave) retreat@stthomasreformedchurch.org
Vicki Whitter-	Office Administrator Officeadmin@stthomasreformedchurch.org

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