



This one will be our

Peace

Micah 5:5

historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

December 8, 2024

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philipians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

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

Prelude

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

Gathering | Music Greeting | Ministry Opportunities

Introit **"Creation Will Be at Peace"** Page/Williams

Lighting the Advent Wreath -

Today we light the candle of **PEACE**. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace.

The prophet Isaiah wrote: **"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

Prayer

***Hymn** **'Come, O Long-Expected Jesus'** **HYFRYDOL**

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

God Incarnate, we are waiting
For a Savior to appear
Meet us in our desert journey
Give a sign that you are near
Burning bushes, parted waters
Food aplenty in the wild
As we look for signs and wonders
Help us see you in a child

Call to Confession | Unison Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response

'Lamb of God'

FIRST NOWELL



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Words of Assurance and Hope

Dear children of God: do not be afraid. The promise given long ago has been kept once and for all in the birth at Bethlehem. Rejoice, rejoice, for Christ has come for you.

PEACE is the gift God has given to us, not only on this day, not only in this season, but in all the moments to come. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Offering

"A Child Is Born"

Jones

Michael Barr, Flugelhorn

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

Children's Message

***Hymn 'Your Hands, O Lord, in Days of Old' ST. LOUIS**

(Children are dismissed to Christian Education Classes)

Your hands, O Lord, in days of old
Were strong to heal and save
They triumphed over pain and death
O'er darkness and the grave
To You they came, the blind, mute
The paralyzed and lame
The lepers in their misery
The sick, and those in shame

And then, Your touch brought life and health
Gave hearing, speech, and sight
While strength renewed and health restored
Acclaimed You Lord of light
And so, O Lord, now bless us
With all Your healing pow'r
In troubled home, in crowded street
In sorrow's saddest hour

O, be our great Deliv'rer still
The Lord of life and death
Restore and strengthen, soothe and bless

With Your life-giving breath
On hands and feet and vision
Your healing wisdom pour
That whole and sick and weak and strong
May praise You evermore

Scripture Memory Verse:

John 5:19 "Jesus replied, 'Truly I tell you, the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing, for whatever the Father does, the Son likewise does these things.'"

Sermon series: Experiencing God:
"God's Will and Your Life" (#6 of 12)

Sermon: "God Speaks - part 2" -Pastor Jeff Neevel

...AND RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE...

(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)



Offertory "Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. McDonald

Come, O come, Emmanuel
Ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear
O come, Desire of nations, bind
All people in one heart and mind
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

***Doxology**

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn #153 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear'** v 1,2,4 CAROL

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

THIS Sunday! All are invited to our 4th Annual Christmas Concert featuring Gylchris Sprauve, in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m.

Children's Choir rehearses weekly from 11:15 to 11:45 (following Sunday School) with Chanelle in the Music Room. All children ages 4-12 are encouraged to participate! Join us as we continue to prepare for today's concert and next week's Christmas Pageant. For more info, contact Chanelle: music@stthomasreformedchurch.org

NEXT SUNDAY – STRC Christmas Pageant

STRC's Annual Christmas Pageant takes place during worship on Sunday 12/15, featuring a cast of 20, combined choirs, a 3-piece band, and a multitude of helpers backstage!

After the pageant we invite you to bring your favorite Christmas cookies or baked goods to share!

Attention, Pageant Cast: there are **TWO** pageant rehearsals this week; the first is on **Wednesday, December 11th at 5:45 p.m.** for all those with speaking roles/lines; the second is the **Dress Rehearsal on Saturday 12/14 from 9 a.m. to noon**--both rehearsals are mandatory, and all lines should be memorized before Wednesday's rehearsal. For more information, please contact Stage Manager Amber Knight: amberknight2@gmail.com

11-This Wednesday another **COMMUNITY DINNER** will be served @ 5:00 pm in the Pavilion. Thank you Tom Kennington for cooking up some great meals! **There's a sign up sheet in the back** for volunteers that are needed for set-up, serving, and breakdown.

Later this month:

Sunday 12/22/24

Special Advent Prelude/Mini-Concert!

On Sunday, December 22nd, organist Kenneth Dake will present "Masterworks Heralding the Lord of Love", a mini-concert from 9:45 to 10:00 a.m. Be sure to arrive early to hear the majestic music of Christmas by composers such as Bach & Brahms, and arrangements of familiar carols including "Lo, How a Rose" and "Go, Tell It On the Mountain", played by renowned organist Kenneth Dake. Mr. Dake is the former Music Director of Marble Collegiate Church in New York City.

Special Musical Guest Nancy Ruffer

The service on December 22nd will also include a performance by internationally acclaimed flautist Nancy Ruffer. Following a Fulbright-Hayes scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music in London, Ms. Ruffer has been principal flute in many ensembles, recorded many CDs and worked with various chamber groups and orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and London Sinfonietta.

24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm! The Christmas Eve Offering this year will benefit Insight Outreach, Inc. providing much-needed mental health services to our community.

STRC Christmas Cards featuring an original Christmas Eve painting by artist Tony Romano are available after worship today. Purchase a pack of 10 cards for \$35 to support the XYG Mission Trip 2025 to the DR!

29 – Worship and the Sacrament of Baptism for Kyle Julian Richardson Jr. – son of Kyle and Sydney Comissiong Richardson

Consistory nominations – Are you feeling called to serve? Do you know someone who is gifted in leadership and would like to serve STRC on Consistory? Scripture teaches that deacons are responsible for the ministry of compassion and material maintenance, representing God's love and mercy in Christ. Everything in the church will be done decently and in order when faithful persons are called to office, and responsibly fulfill their charge. Consistory terms are three years with an option to renew for another three years. Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month at 6pm and as otherwise needed. If you would like to nominate someone for a deacon position, please speak with one of the nominating committee members: CJ Oleari – (340)-513-0722, Erin Salzbrun – (513) 657-8511) or Ryan Wisehart – (340) 998-5366.



GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us worshiping together
Preaching:	Pastor Jeffrey Neevel
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Mike Barr & the Adult Choir
AV/Livestream:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Trey Thompson, Dave Whitter

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeffrey Neevel -	Pastor pastorjeff@strchurch.org
Chanelle Schaffer -	Minister of Music and Arts music@stthomasreformedchurch.org
Vicky Gomez-Christian -	Operations Administrator retreat@stthomasreformedchurch.org
Vicki Whitter -	Administrative Assistant officeadmin@stthomasreformedchurch.org

The St. Thomas Reformed Church | P.O. Box 365 | St. Thomas, VI 00804
mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org