



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

January 11, 2026

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29;

Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

...“WE GATHER IN GOD’S PRESENCE...

Gathering Music

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

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Introit

“Dwell in Unity”

Davis

Behold how good and pleasant it is
For all of us to dwell in unity
Good, so good
For fellowship, it's good
For all of us to dwell in unity

Call to Worship

Leader: In a world that often feels restless and divided, we come to this house of worship to find our center.

People: We come seeking a place of belonging, a sanctuary for our souls.

Leader: Though the shadows of our world may loom large and the news of the day may weigh heavy on our hearts, we are not a people of fear.

People: We are a people of hope, anchored in the love of the One who calls us by name.

Leader: In this season of pastoral transition, let us remember that we are already a complete body. May we look to the Christ, the only head of the Church.

People: We are many members, yet one body. We are interwoven by grace and held together by peace.

Leader: Let us use this time to look more closely at our neighbors, to listen more deeply to one another, and to widen the circle of our community.

People: May we be a harbor for the weary and a home for the seeking.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord who was, and is, and is to come.

All: Let us praise the Lord together!

Prayer

*Hymn

'Welcome'

Miller

1. Let's walk to-gether for a while and
2. Let's talk to-gether of a time when
3. Let's dream to-gether of the day when

ask where we be - gin____ to build a world where
we will share a____ feast,____ where pride and pow - er
earth and heaven are____ one,____ a ci - ty built of

love can grow and hope can en-ter in,____ to be the hands of
kneel to____ serve the lone - ly and the least,____ and joy will set the
love and light,____ the new Je-ru-sa - lem,____ where our mour-ing turns to

heal - ing____ and to plant the seeds of____ peace,____ Sing-ing
ta - ble____ as we join our hands to____ pray,____ Sing-ing
danc-ing____ ev-ery crea - ture lifts its____ voice!____ Cry-ing

wel - come, welcome to____ this place. You're in - vit - ed to come and know
God's grace. All are wel - come the love of God to share____ 'cause

all of us____ are wel-come here;____ all are welcome in this place.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us pray. Merciful God, in this new year, we admit we have already failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We confess the harm of our actions: our selfish choices, our quick judgments, and the unkind words we have spoken.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We confess what we have left undone: the comfort we did not give, the hospitality we withheld, and the times we looked away from suffering.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Forgive our indifference. By your Spirit, break down our walls and teach us to be a community of true belonging.

All: Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

Response 'We Give Thanks for Our Salvation' NETTLETON

We give thanks for our salvation
In the grace of Christ, we're found
We are brought from isolation
Into lives of those around
All together we lack nothing
As Christ's work is now revealed
God is faithful and has called us
Into fellowship we're sealed

Let our speech reflect our oneness
Echoing the words You said
Keep us selfless in our actions
Leading others where You led
End divisive motivations
Give us grace in unity
That surpasses our emotions
And restores us perfectly

Words of Assurance and Hope

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

Children's Dismissal

Children and young people will be dismissed from worship for Sunday School during the next song.

*Hymn 'Bond of Love / Blest Be the Tie' Fawcett/Skillings

Chorus:

We are one in the bond of love

We are one in the bond of love

We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of God

We are one in the bond of love

Let us sing now, everyone

Let us feel God's love begun

Let us join our hands, that the world will know

We are one in the bond of love

Blest be the tie that binds

Our hearts in Christian love

The fellowship of kindred minds

Is like to that above

Before our Maker's throne

We pour our ardent prayers

Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one

Our comforts and our cares

We share our mutual woes

Our mutual burdens bear

And often for each other flows

The sympathizing tear (chorus)

Scripture

Acts 2:42-47 NRSV

Scripture

Hebrews 10:23-25 NRSV

Message

"Making Room at the Table"

Rev. Andrea 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)



Offertory

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Miller

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide
No-one stands alone, we'll stand side by side
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide
Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still
Let this be our song, no-one stands alone
Standing side by side
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide

***Doxology**

Joyful Response to God: Testimony

Lecia Richmond – "What Breaking Bread Meant To Me"

Pastoral Prayer of Remembrance & the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn #419 'All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly'**
HOLY MANNA

***Benediction**

Announcements:

Children's Choir rehearses this morning after worship; all children ages 4 to 12 are encouraged to join us as we prepare for MLK Sunday, Black History Month, and more!

Adult Choir continues this week; all are welcome to join us on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Music Room. For more information, contact Chanelle.

Next weekend: Relay for Life!

After a long absence, 'Relay for Life' (American Cancer Society) of St. Thomas/ St. John has returned! The 24-hour fundraising event takes place at Ivanna Eudora Kean High School from 6 pm on Saturday, January 17th until 6 pm on Sunday, 1/18. STRC will be leading a time of gospel music & worship on Sunday 1/18 at 1 p.m.--all are welcome to attend! For more info about Relay for Life, speak with Dr. Tess Richards. Event contact info:

[**RFLStThomasVI@gmail.com**](mailto:RFLStThomasVI@gmail.com) / (340) 775-3700, or follow on Facebook.

Introducing Corrie Bakker - Seminary Intern from Grand Rapids, MI. STRC is hosting Corrie and her husband, Mike. Corrie comes to us from Calvin Theological Seminary where she will be engaged in cross-cultural learning and congregational care, and plans to go into chaplaincy after her graduation this Spring.

STRC will be having a focus on Stewardship in January and February

Throughout January, you will hear stories and testimonies from people who have been impacted by STRC over the past several years. The ministry of STRC is vibrant and alive, and we want to share what God has done and what God is doing in our congregation. On February 8, we will wrap up our Stewardship-themed weeks with a "Commitment Sunday" as we ask members and attendees to join and share in the ministry of St. Thomas Reformed Church.

Pastoral Search Committee Prayer Request

We are currently in the process of interviewing candidates for our Senior Pastor role. Please pray for the leadership of the church and our candidates as we work to faithfully discern the right person to be called as our next pastoral leader.

Consistory Nomination and Selection Process

Please be in prayer for our consistory and folks who have been nominated as we work through the process of selecting, ordaining, and installing new elders and deacons in 2026. More details will be forthcoming this month.

Revenues were less than budgets due to a shortfall in contribution revenue partially offset by increases in other revenue sources. Expenses are less than budget due to less spent on property and maintenance, deferral of new pastor search expenses into 2026 and a reduction of benevolent expenses to be in line with the reduction in contribution revenue.

	2025 Actual	Budget	2024 Actual
Contributions	456,000	732,000	565,000
Total Revenues	736,000	933,000	775,000
Total Expenses	794,000	966,000	933,000
Surplus (deficit)	(59,000)	(33,000)	(158,000)

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers: All of us worshiping together
Preaching: Rev. Andrea DeWard
Music: Chanelle Schaffer, the Adult Choir
AV/Livestream: James Anderson, James Cobb, Lyra & Ariel Rosenthal, Trey Thompson & Dave Whitter
Greeters: the Davis Family

CONTACT INFORMATION

Nate DeWard -	Transitional Pastor nate@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
Sheree Haubrich -	Discipleship Coordinator shaubrich2021@outlook.com

St Thomas Reformed Church | PO Box 365 | St Thomas, Virgin Islands, 00804
(340) 776-8255