



THE **POWER** OF
forgiveness

historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Genesis 45:3-11,15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50; Luke 6:27-38

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

Gathering Music

Greeting | Ministry Updates

Introit "The Presence of the Lord Is Here" Stone/Cates

For the broken, for the weary
For the helpless, so in need
For the outcast, for the guilty
Come and lay down everything
The presence of the Lord is here
There is freedom; we're forgiven
The presence of the Lord is here
Hallelujah! What a Savior
God is holy, God is able
God forever gives us grace
God is moving, God is with us
By God's mercy, there's no shame
Let God lead us to repentance
God is strong when we are weak
So we lift our voice and sing

Call to Worship

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

Amen!

Come, all who are weary, and find rest in the Lord.

We come to the One who forgives and restores.

Come, all who are broken, and find healing in the Lord.

We come to receive the grace that has been freely given to us.

Come, all who love the Lord!

We come to worship and praise the name of the Lord!

Prayer

*Hymn 'Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here'

SOLID ROCK

Great God, Your love has called us here
As we, by love, for love were made
Your living likeness still we bear
Though marred, dishonored, disobeyed
We come, with all our heart and mind
Your call to hear, Your love to find
Your call to hear, Your love to find

Great God, in Christ, You call our name
And then receive us as Your own
Not through some merit, right, or claim
But by Your gracious love alone
We strain to glimpse Your mercy seat
And find You kneeling at our feet
And find You kneeling at our feet

Great God, in Christ, You set us free
Your life to live, Your joy to share
Give us Your Spirit's liberty
To turn from guilt and dull despair
And offer all that faith can do
While love is making all things new
While love is making all things new

Call to Confession | Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we have sinned against You and one another. When we have harbored anger, resentment, and unforgiveness in our hearts, Lord forgive us. When we have failed to love as You have loved us, Lord forgive us. Help us to extend the grace You have shown us to those who have wronged us. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray...

Response 'There's a Wideness in God's Mercy' AUSTIN

There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the wide - ness of the sea; there's a
kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more - than lib - er - ty,
But we make God's love too nar - row by false
lim - its of our own, and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal - God will not own, -
For the love of God is broad - er than the
mea - sures of our minds, and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind, -

Words of Assurance and Hope

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

Children's Message

(Children are dismissed to Christian Education Classes)

*Hymn 'Oh, the Mercy of God'

Bullock

Oh, the mercy of God, the glory of grace
That You chose to redeem us, to forgive and restore
And You call us Your children, chosen in You
To be holy and blameless to the glory of God

Chorus

To the praise of Your glorious grace
To the praise of Your glory and power
To God be all glory, honor, and praise
Forever and ever and ever, Amen

Oh, the richness of grace, the depths of Your love
In You is redemption, the forgiveness of sin
And You called us as righteous, destined in You
To be holy and blameless, to the glory of God (*chorus*)

Oh, the glory of God expressed in the Son
God's image and likeness revealed to us all
The plan of the ages completed in Christ
That we be presented perfected in Him (*chorus*)

Scripture: Genesis 45:3-11,15

Message: "Making Peace With Your Past"

Pastor Jeffrey Neevel

...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 "God's Mercy Is More"

Papa/Boswell

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all-knowing God counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins, they are many; God's mercy is more
Praise the Lord, God's mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins, they are many; God's mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Savior, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins, they are many; God's mercy is more
What riches of kindness Christ lavished on us
His love was the payment; His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins, they are many; God's mercy is more

***Doxology**

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn 'Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)'**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound Newton/Tomlin
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus:

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me
And like a flood, His mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures (*chorus*)

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home (*chorus*)

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Announcements:

TODAY – XYG BBQ & Bake Sale after worship! All proceeds support our XYG “LOVE is what we’re after!” mission/vision trip to Jarabacoa, DR in April.

Children's Choir rehearses today! The group 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 prepare for upcoming services including V.I. History Month! For more info, contact Chanelle: music@stthomasreformedchurch.org

Sing a New Song Unto the Lord!

The Adult Choir rehearses this week, and new members are always welcome! No previous choral experience is necessary; the only requirement is the ability to match pitch and follow direction. Join a dedicated group of volunteers and raise your voice in song and praise! For more info, contact Chanelle, or just stop by the Music Room any Thursday evening from 6 to 7:30.

MBW Murder Mystery this Saturday! Come support the Mission of MBW.



Coming in March: (VI History and Women's History Month)

2 – XYG Giving Wall – help support our youth trip to Jarabacoa DR with a gift! “LOVE is what we're after!”

2 – Queen Louis Home visit 1pm

5 – Ash Wednesday service to begin the season of Lent. SOUP Dinner served at 6pm followed by a service of ashes at 7pm.

9 – Daylight Savings Time – a friendly reminder for our online worshipping community! **VI History Tour after worship!**

23 – Guest preacher Rev. Robert Johnson

30 – XYG BBQ and Bake sale!

Three Bible studies beginning during Lent! Please go online to sign up at strchurch.org under ministries or sign up sheets are in the back of the Sanctuary.

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeffrey Neevel -	Pastor pastorjeff@strchurch.org
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