

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



December 5, 2021

We Welcome One and All
In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

The liturgical color today is purple in preparation for the birth of our Savior!

“We Gather In God’s Presence...”

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Introit

“Prepare Ye the Way”

Mark

I hear the voice of one crying
Prepare ye
Prepare ye the way of the Lord
Make His path straight
Make straight His path in the wilderness
Let His light shine
Let His light shine in the darkness
Let Your rain fall
Let Your rain fall in this desert
I hear the voice of one crying
Prepare ye
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Call to Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candle (*Peace*)

Rev. Rebecca & Forrest Broom

Today we light the second candle of the Advent wreath. This is the candle of peace.

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace.

From the prophet Isaiah: “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Congregational Response (*to be sung while the second purple candle is lit*)

‘Come By Here’

arr.Smallwood

Come by here, my Lord, come by here (3x)
Oh Lord, come by here

We are waiting, Lord, come by here (3x)
Oh Lord, come by here

Dwell among us, Lord, come by here (3x)
Oh Lord, come by here

Prayer

***Hymn #135** **‘Blessed Be the God of Israel’** *MERLE’S TUNE*

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God’s will is that you should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Response **‘Come, Lord Jesus’** *Landry*

Come, Lord Jesus (3x)
Come and be born in our hearts

Come, O Prince of Peace (3x)
Come and be born in our hearts

Words of Assurance and Hope

Reception of New Members *(see liturgy)*

***Hymn # 153** verses 1, 3 & 4 **‘It Came Upon the Midnight Clear’** *Sears/Willis*

... To Hear God’s Word...

Scripture **Malachi 3:14-20**

Message **“Waxing Nostalgic!”** **Pastor Jeff Neevel**

And Respond With Gratitude...

Offering

(You are invited to bring your gifts to the altar and place them in the offering plates or in the box by the front sanctuary door. Online giving is also available at www.strcgiving.org.)

Offertory

“Pacem”

Dengler

Dona nobis pacem
Et in terra pax hominibus
Bonae voluntatis

Give us peace, and on earth
Peace and goodwill toward all people

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Profession of Faith

Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

A Celebration of Communion

(All who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome at the table. Beginning with the back pews, you are invited to come forward using the side aisles, to receive the bread and juice. Then return to your seat using the center aisle to partake.)

Communion Music **“Dona Nobis Pacem”**

Traditional

***Thanksgiving After Communion**

*The Lord's Prayer

Malotte

**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**

***Choral Benediction ‘While We Are Waiting, Come’** *Cloninger/Cason*

While we are waiting, come

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel

While we are waiting, come

**Please stand.*

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers: All of us viewing together

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Neevel

Liturgist: Pastor Ben Rowe

Greeter: Jan Swenson

Advent Wreath: Rev. Rebecca and Forrest Broom

Music: Channele Schaffer, STRC Adult Choir

Live Stream Team: James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King,
Lucy Sutton, and Dave Whitter

A warm welcome to our visitors. You are invited to complete the visitor registration forms on the back table, and place them in the offering plate.

Wednesday Fellowship Night continues. All are welcome to join us from 5:30-7 pm for dinner. Bring the whole family .

Children's Choir & YouthSong are back! Both our Children's Choir (ages 3 to 12) and YouthSong, our choir for teens (ages 13 & up), have resumed regular rehearsals. Children's Choir meets today and each Sunday morning after worship from 11:30 a.m. to noon. YouthSong rehearses Saturdays from 4 to 5 p.m. We look forward to hearing our young people's voices in worship again soon! For more info, please contact Channele--all are welcome!

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

New Members!

It is with great joy that we will welcome eight **new members** during worship today:

Scott & Kiki Burnley , Kenny & Susannah Covert

Pastor Ben & Emily Rowe, John & Joy Townsend

You are invited to stay for a reception in their honor in the Pavilion immediately following worship. Refreshments will be shared in "To Go Bags". *(Covid safety protocols will be observed)* **WELCOME!**

Another Inquirer's Class will be forming and meeting February 27, 2022. If you are interested in learning more about the Reformed Church and membership through baptism and confession of faith, you may sign up at www.strchurch.org

The Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Friday, December 24 @ 7pm. Because of DOH regulations, all attendees must be fully vaccinated from Covid-19, masks must be worn throughout the service and seating capacity will be limited. Please sign up on our website, <https://strchurch.org/silentnight> to reserve a seat.

Consistory Nominating Committee:

There is one vacant position on consistory for the coming year as a deacon. A nominating committee has been asked to collect names of active members who are called and willing to serve to submit for consideration by consistory. Elders and deacons, along with the minister of Word and Sacrament, comprise the consistory. Deacons are men or women who are called by God and uplifted by the church as those who are leaders in ministries of service, mercy and outreach. Elders are men or women who are called by God and uplifted by the church as those who are leaders in ministries of discipleship, worship and spiritual oversight. Please share with the members of the nominating committee your input as to whom you believe would serve our congregation well as deacon. They are needing and expecting your prayerful participation in this process!

Tina Comissiong 305-606-1238

tinacomissiong@gmail.com

Don Hancock 340-244-5452

hancock.don@gmail.com

Bob Stolz 703-303-9281

stolz_rc@yahoo.com

This year's live Christmas Tree is given in loving memory of Daniel, Neisha and Tyler Yannone.

Contact Information

Mailing Address PO Box 301769 St. Thomas, VI 00803

Website: <https://strchurch.org/>

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STRC "APP" free from iTunes and Google Play

Like us on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasreformedchurch/>

Online giving:

[STRCGIVING.ORG](https://www.stthomasreformedchurch.org/online-giving)

LOVE CONCERT

THE ORCHESTRAL SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS JOY



FEATURING:

**The Virgin Islands - Puerto Rico
Friendship Chamber Orchestra,
José Eduardo Vanga, conductor
with distinguished soloists:**



**Laura
Strickling**
soprano



**Shikima
Jones-Sprauve**
soprano



**Melita
Etienne**
mezzo-soprano



**Gylchris
Sprauve**
tenor



**The Lansiquot
Sisters**
vocal trio



**Ludence
Romney**
baritone



**Gerard
Huggins**
bass



**Sherwin
Williams**
saxophone



**Aboris
de Jesus**
piano



**The Le'Roi Simmonds
Classical Pan Quartet**

Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 6pm

The St. Thomas Reformed Church

Nye Gade, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

FREE ADMISSION - Freewill offering will be collected -

Temperature checks at door - Masks must be worn - Sanctuary is open air

Concert will be streamed live from the St Thomas Reformed Church's Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasreformedchurch/>

and re-broadcast during the Christmas season on the V.I. Government Access Channel