



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

February 22, 2026

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7; Psalm 121;

Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

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

Gathering Music

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

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Introit

"Holy Is His Name"

Lewis

Holy is the name of Jesus

Righteous is the name of Jesus

Power in the name of Jesus

Holy is His name

Call to Worship

Leader: We enter this season of Lent not by our own strength, but by the leading of the Spirit.

People: We come weary and hungry, seeking the Bread of Life in our wilderness.

Leader: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind," but God is faithful.

People: He will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear, but will provide a way out.

Leader: Let us worship the One who stood firm in the desert, that we might stand firm in His grace.

ALL: As a pilgrim people, let us trust the journey and worship God together!

Prayer

*Hymn #631

'Lift Every Voice and Sing'

Johnson

The STRC Children's Choir ~Congregation joins on Verse 3

Lift every voice and sing

Till earth and heaven ring

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty

Let our rejoicing rise

High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won

Kenra Plummer:

Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died

Margaux Liburd:

Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our people sighed?

Lyanna Smalls:

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered

Gianna Smalls:

Out from the gloomy past
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

All: God of our weary years

God of our silent tears

Thou who has brought us thus far on the way

Thou who has by Thy might led us into the light

Keep us forever in the path, we pray

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee

Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee

Shadowed beneath Thy hand

May we forever stand

True to our God

True to our native land

Call to Confession | Responsive Prayer of Confession

Leader: Gracious God, You know our frame; You remember that we are but dust.

People: We confess that we prefer the efficiency of our own shortcuts over the mystery of Your timing.

Leader: We confess that we have allowed our desires to clutter our souls, seeking bread where there is no life.

People: Forgive us for our impatience and for our lack of trust when we feel abandoned in the desert.

Leader: We have fought against Your redirection and sought the glory of this world.

People: Holy Spirit, move through our "not yet" and strengthen us in our moments of trial.

ALL: As the Heidelberg Catechism teaches, we are so weak in ourselves that we cannot stand for a moment; reignite our trust in Your timing. Amen.

Response 'Carry This All'

Blakely

You do not carry this all alone

No, you do not carry this all alone

This is way too big

For you to carry this on your own

So you do not carry this all alone

Words of Assurance and Hope

Anthem

"Hold On"

Spiritual, arr. Cooney

STRC Adult Choir & Dance Ministry

Paul and Silas locked in jail

Got no money to go their bail

Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

Paul and Silas thought they was lost

Dungeon shook, and the chains come off

Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

Only chain that we can stand

Is the chain of hand on hand

Wouldn't take nothing for my journey now

Got my hand on the gospel plough

Only thing that we did wrong

Stayed in the wilderness too long

Only thing that we did right

Was the day we refused to fight

Heard the voice of Jesus say

"Come to me, I am the way."
When the day is dark as night
I know Jesus will be my light
Child of God, rise and be free
Spread the dream of the jubilee
If we're peaceful, true, and bold
Streets of earth gonna shine like gold
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

Children's Blessing and Dismissal

Leader: Young Disciples, you are the light of the world!

Congregation: May Christ shape you by His Word and Spirit.

Children: (Repeated after leader) May God lead us; in faith and obedience.

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: As we have blessed our children, please take a moment now to greet those around you and extend a blessed to them.

***Congregational Greeting / Passing the Peace**

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

***Hymn 'Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round'**

Ain't gonna let *nobody turn me 'round
Turn me 'round, turn me 'round
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round
I'm gonna keep on walkin', keep on talkin'
Till I reach the Higher Ground

Ain't gonna let *no trial...

Ain't gonna let *no trouble...

Ain't gonna let *no burden...

Oh, don't you let nobody turn you 'round
Turn you 'round, turn you 'round
Oh, don't you let nobody turn you 'round
We're gonna keep on walkin', keep on talkin'
Till we reach the Higher Ground

Spiritual

Scripture:

Matthew 4:1-11

Message:

"Lead Us Not Into Temptation"

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



Offertory

"Lord, Help Me to Hold Out"

Johnson, arr. Kee

*Doxology

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer (sung)

Miller



Our God - in heav-en - Ho - ly is Your name. - Your reign come, - Your
will done - on earth as in heav-en. - Give us to-day our dai - ly bread, and
help us for-give, as we have been for - giv-en. - In the time of tri-al, - lead us in - to
light, - for Yours is - the king-dom - and the pow-er - and the glo-ry - for - ev -
er. Our God - in heav-en, - Ho - ly is Your name, Ho - ly is Your
name.

***Closing Song 'We Shall Overcome'**

Traditional

***We shall overcome, we shall overcome**

We shall overcome someday

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe

We shall overcome *someday

***We'll walk hand in hand...**

***We are not afraid...**

***God will see us through...**

***We shall overcome, *today**

***Benediction**

Announcements:

Thank you for supporting the recent XYG BBQ & Bake Sale. Through your generosity, the youth raised \$2,840, with net proceeds of \$2116 going toward their upcoming mission experience. Additional fundraising efforts will be announced in the coming months as we continue working toward our mission goals. Thank you for your continued support of XYG!

Pastoral Search Planning - Our pastoral candidate, Rev. Dr. Raully Donahue, will be visiting March 3-9, with his wife Kari. Raully has worked as a pastor, chaplain, professor, and a stay-at-home dad in various seasons of his life. He grew up in Montana and went to school and lived in the Midwest for many years. Pastor Raully will be leading in worship and preaching on March 8 and we will have a BBQ in the pavilion where congregants can greet him. The following Sunday, March 15, after worship, the consistory will host a congregational meeting, and an advisory vote will be taken.

Transitional Pastor Nate DeWard will return to Michigan after Easter, April 5. The consistory has asked the HR team to bring a temporary pastor, Rev. Dr. Randy Weener, to help at STRC and work 25 hours/week in April and May 2026. The details and terms of this part-time position are being finalized.

Endowment Committee Opportunity

If you or someone you know is gifted at understanding investments and how endowments support the mission of nonprofits and churches, please contact Pastor Nate DeWard to speak with a representative of the Endowment Committee. We are looking for qualified and interested volunteers serve.

Consistory Selection Update Consistory has prayerfully selected Tina Comissiong (Deacon), Lecia Richmond (Elder), and Brian Via (Deacon) from our list of eligible nominees for consistory. This slate will be voted on by the congregation on March 15 at the congregational meeting and ordained/installed at that time.

Need Your Yearly Giving Statement?

Hey, STRC family, thank you for your generous giving this year! If you need a statement of your contributions, just let us know. Email us at officeadmin@stthomasreformedchurch.org and we will get one sent to you.

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers: All of us worshiping together
Pastor: Nate DeWard
Music: Chanelle Schaffer, Phoebe Smith-Charles, Yolanda Thorpe, The Adult Choir & the Children's Choir
Soloists: Margaux Hazell Liburd, Kenra Plummer, Lyanna Smalls, Gianna Smalls, Bonnie & Ty Troutman
STRC Dance Ministry- Rev. Rebecca Broom, Ingram Denise Brown, Amber Knight, Camille McKayle-Stolz, Katie Landry, Tresta Richardson, Ariel Stolz
Band: Ryan Diehl, drums, Steve Richman, guitar
Uriel Rogers, bass, James Cobb, harmonica
AV/Livestream: James Anderson, James Cobb, Trey Thompson
Ariel and Lyra Rosenthal & Dave Whitter

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
Shereé Haubrich	Discipleship Coordinator Shaubrich@strchurch.org

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