

DO YOU SEE WHAT  
**JESUS**  
IS  DOING?

historic faith. present love. future hope.

**We Welcome One and All**

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

**March 15, 2026**

**10:00 am**

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

[www.strchurch.org](http://www.strchurch.org)



You are here, turning lives around  
I worship You, I worship You  
You are here, mending every heart  
I worship You, I worship You (*chorus*)

That is who You are, that is who You are  
That is who You are, that is who You are

Even when I don't see it, You're working  
Even when I don't feel it, You're working  
You never stop, You never stop working  
You never stop, You never stop working (*chorus*)

## Call to Confession

### Responsive Prayer of Confession

**Leader:** Gracious God, You gave sight to a man who had never known the sun.

**People:** We confess that we often prefer the shadows because they allow us to ignore the patterns of harm around us.

**Leader:** We confess that we have doubted the transformation of others, rather than rejoicing in their wholeness.

**People:** Forgive us for our cynicism and for the times we have tried to talk ourselves out of the miracles we've experienced.

**Leader:** We have allowed our need for social validation to clutter our souls.

**People:** Holy Spirit, wash the "mud" from our eyes that we might see the truth of our own worth and the needs of our neighbors.

**ALL:** Reignite our trust in the "one thing we know": that though we were blind, now we see. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Light, Amen.

## Response 'He Healed the Darkness of My Mind'

O WALY WALY

He healed the darkness of my mind  
The day he gave my sight to me  
It was not sin that made me blind  
It was no sinner made me see

Let others call my faith a lie  
Or try to stir up doubt in me  
Look at me now! None can deny  
I once was blind, and now I see

Ask me not how! But I know who  
Has opened up new worlds to me  
This Jesus does what none can do  
I once was blind, and now I see

## Words of Assurance and Hope

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

**Spiritual Enactment:** Matthew 20:1-16      The Worship Team

**Children's Message and Dismissal**

**Congregational Greeting and Passing the Peace**

**\*Hymn**      '**Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior**'      Crosby/Doane

Pass me not, O gentle Savior  
Hear my humble cry  
While on others Thou art calling  
Do not pass me by

**Refrain:**

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry  
While on others Thou art calling  
Do not pass me by

Let me at Thy throne of mercy  
Find a sweet relief  
Kneeling there in deep contrition  
Help my unbelief (*refrain*)

Trusting only in Thy merit  
Would I seek Thy face  
Heal my wounded, broken spirit  
Save me by Thy grace (*refrain*)

Scripture:

John 9:1-12

Message:

"I was blind, now I see" – 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](http://www.strchurch.org/give))



## Offertory

"Be Thou My Vision"  
Ty & Bonnie Troutman

arr. Schaffer

## \*Doxology

## Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

-Pastor Nate DeWard

## \*Closing Song 'Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness'

Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light  
Praise the One who frees the prisoners  
Turning blindness into sight  
Praise the One who preached the gospel  
Healing every dread disease  
Calming storms and feeding thousands  
With the very bread of peace

HYFRYDOL

Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong yet gentle word  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With a piercing two-edged sword  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
To the desert's burning sand  
From this well comes Living Water  
Quenching thirst in every land

Praise the one true love incarnate  
Christ, who suffered in our place  
Jesus died and rose for many  
That we may know God by grace  
Let us sing for joy and gladness  
Seeing what our God has done  
Praise the one redeeming glory  
Praise the One who makes us one

## Benediction

### Announcements:

**STRC Senior Pastor Candidate: Rev. Dr. Raully Donahue** - Last week, Pastor Raully and his wife Kari, spent approximately 30 hours with STRC Church leaders, congregants, and community partners. This was a very important visit for them to experience St. Thomas Reformed Church, our island community, and to introduce themselves to the wider church and community. This Sunday, March 15, we will be having a congregational meeting immediately after the worship service, where members will be given an opportunity to provide an Advisory Vote. An Advisory Vote is standard protocol in Reformed Churches where the Consistory tries to learn the depth of congregational support and understand the heart and mind of its members with respect to a specific candidate or candidates before a call is issued. The consistory will be deciding on whether to extend a call to Dr. Donahue on Tuesday, March 17, at their stated monthly consistory meeting.

**Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 5** - STRC worship leaders are preparing for a 6 AM Worship Service at Lindquist/Smith Bay Beach. If you are willing to help with setup and/or tear down, please contact Pastor Nate and he will refer you to the work team led by Bob Rash.

**Pastor Nate DeWard's Transitional Ministry** - Easter Sunday will be Pastor Nate's last Sunday in worship with STRC. He plans to depart St. Thomas on Wednesday, April 8. He is genuinely grateful to have this opportunity to serve and thanks each person who made him and his family feel welcome in St. Thomas.

**Children's Choir rehearses this morning after worship;** all children ages 4 to 12 are encouraged to join us as we prepare for Holy Week and more!

**Next Sunday is Birthday Sunday! We are celebrating February and March Birthdays!** If your birthday month is February or March, please bring a dish to share as we celebrate birthdays and VI local food.

**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](mailto:officeadmin@stthomasreformedchurch.org) and we will get one sent to you. Thank you for all you do and for your ongoing support for the ministries of the St. Thomas Reformed Church!

### **March Is Women's History & V.I. History Month!**

We celebrate the strength and achievements of women in the V.I. and around the world, and each week, we'll feature music by female writers, composers, and singers. This morning, you'll hear the words and music of Osinachi Kali Okra Egbu (Way Maker), Mary Byrne & Eleanor Hull (Be Thou My Vision), and the words of our featured composer, Fanny Crosby (Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior). We celebrate the rich history of the Virgin Islands throughout the month with the words and music of Caribbean poets and composers, and a special VI-focused service is planned for next Sunday, March 22nd.

**Featured Composer: Frances "Fanny" J. Crosby (1820-1915)** was a prolific hymn writer who authored some 8,500 hymns. She was born in New York and was blinded by a medical mishap when she was only six weeks old. This led to a life fighting for the rights of the blind, helping to ensure acceptance and accessibility, and even appearing before Congress (the first woman ever to do so) to plead her cause. She frequented city rescue missions to teach, sing over, and serve the hungry and needy in her community. She often visited prisons, praying over the inmates and singing hymns for them. For much of her life, she was able to support herself by authoring hymns; she was a brilliant writer, and could compose a text at any time on a variety of sacred or secular themes. Publishers were wary of having too many entries in their hymnals by one person, so Fanny developed a catalogue of over 200 pseudonyms. Still, by the end of the 19th century, Fanny was a household name, and 'Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior' is one of her most-loved compositions.

**Men's Fellowship & Outreach Ministry** - All men are invited to a Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 28 at 8:00 AM. Join us for breakfast, fellowship, a brief devotion, and an opportunity to learn more about upcoming outreach efforts in our community. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please register on Church Center or sign up using the sheet at the back of the sanctuary. For additional information please see Forrest Broom, Dave Haddow or Ty Troutman. This group plans to meet the last Saturday of each month.

**Donations Needed! Disciple Dollar Day is almost here!** Our last event was a huge success, and we're preparing the prize table again. We are collecting new, small prizes, treats, and gift cards for our students. Please bring donated items to the church office or place them in the designated collection area. Thank you for investing in our children and youth. For additional information, please see Shereé Haubrich.

**STRC Discipleship Circles (Small Groups) Shaped by the Word.**  
*Strengthened in Community. Discipleship Circles* are launching soon. Registration will remain open through March 15th, and groups will begin in end of March 2026. For additional information, please see Shereé Haubrich.

## GIVING THANKS

### Leading Worship Today:

**Ministers:** All of us worshipping together  
**Transitional Pastor:** Pastor Nate DeWard  
**Music:** Chanelle Schaffer, James Cobb,  
Christelle Daceus, Abby Horvath,  
Bonnie and Ty Troutman & the Adult Choir  
**AV/Livestream:** James Anderson, James Cobb, Trey Thompson  
Ariel and Lyra Rosenthal & Dave Whitter  
**Greeters:** Lynique Smalls-Burnett and Famiy  
**Spiritual Enactment:** The STRC Worship team

## CONTACT US

Nate DeWard	Transitional Pastor nate@strchurch.org
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