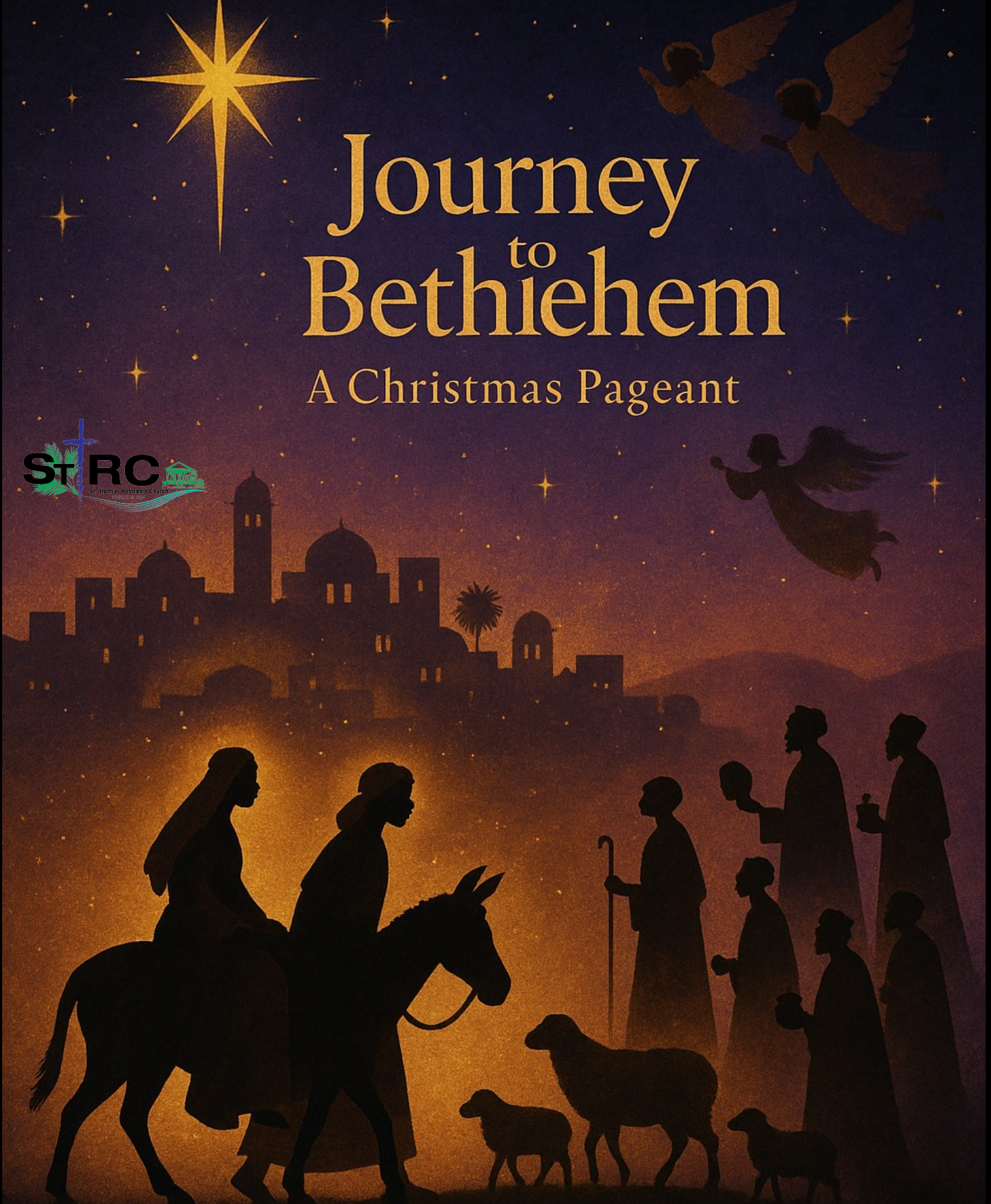


Journey to Bethlehem

A Christmas Pageant



St Thomas Reformed Church

Sunday, December 14th, 2025 10:00 AM

All are welcome to this beautiful retelling of the birth of Christ

Gathering Music

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

Greeting | Ministry Updates

Prayer

***Hymn #144 O Little Town of Bethlehem• v 1,3,4 ST. LOUIS**

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
Your voices raise to God in praise
And peace to all on earth

O holy child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin, and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our God, Emmanuel

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)

**Congregation stands.*

Words for all hymns sung by the congregation are printed in the Sunday bulletin.

Journey to Bethlehem

***Proclamation** **'He Came Down'** West Indian Carol
He came down that we may have ***hope (3x)**
Hallelujah forevermore!
***peace/joy/love**

The Prophets (Isaiah 9:2,6)

The First Advent Candle: The Candle of Hope

Reader: Today we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come, an unexpected liberator of the people, a tender incarnation of the Holiest of Holies, who will give us a new name for God.

People: Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think beyond anything we expected, who show us a future we never could have anticipated.

Reader: Today we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be.

The first Advent candle is lit

Children's Angel Choir

"Light One Candle"

Sleeth

*Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope
He brings hope to everyone, He comes, He comes*

Solo

The Annunciation (Luke 1:27-38)

Schaffer

Chanel Boschulte

Combined Choirs

"Lowly, Lowly"

Crawford

The Second Advent Candle: The Candle of Love

Reader: Today we remember that God is the source of all love.
Through the power of God's love, the impossible becomes reality,
Creator enters Creation, a virgin conceives, the Word became flesh...

People: **For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son.**

Reader: "*Fear not!*" It is in love that Almighty God comes to us
incarnate, in person, in Jesus.

The second Advent candle is lit

"Light One Candle"

Sleeth

*Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love
He brings love to everyone, He comes, He comes (repeat)*

***Hymn**

'Love Has Come'

TORCH

Love has come, a light in the darkness
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior
Love! Love! Glory to God on high

Love is born! come share in the wonder
Love is God now asleep in the hay
See the glow in the eyes of His mother
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers
Love! Love! Jesus! Emmanuel

Love has come and never will leave us
Love is life everlasting and free
Love is Jesus within and among us
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking
Love! Love! love is the gift of Christmas
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high

The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-16)

Adult Choir

"Sing Gloria!"

Raney

Shepherds/Adult Choir

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Spiritual

Congregation:

Go, tell it on the mountain! over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

***Carol 'Angels We Have Heard on High'**

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains
Gloria in Excelsis Deo (2x)

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in Excelsis Deo (2x)

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth
Come adore on bended knee Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth
Gloria in Excelsis Deo (2x)

The Third Advent Candle: The Candle of Joy

Reader: Today we join the shepherds' and angels' voices:
Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love.

People: All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven
reflect thy rays. Stars and angels sing around thee, center of
unbroken praise.

Reader: Wellspring of the joy of living, teach us how to love each other;
lift us to the joy divine.

(From "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee", written by Henry Van Dyke)

The third Advent candle is lit

Song

"Light One Candle"

Sleeth

All: Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy.
He brings joy to every heart He comes, He comes (repeat)

The Magi (Matthew 2:1-12)

Magi

"We Three Kings"

Hopkins. Jr.

**Congregation rises to sing the last verse with the Magi:*

Glorious now behold him arise; Christ and God and sacrifice:

Alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

**O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light**

The Fourth Advent Candle: The Candle of Peace

Reader: And he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Prince of Peace. What gifts can we possibly give Him?

People: We offer ourselves as holy and living sacrifices, by living our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ

Reader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

Song

"Light One Candle"

Sleeth

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace
He brings peace to every heart He comes, He comes (repeat)

Children's Choir

"His Name Is Wonderful"

Tomlin/Cash

Recessional: **'O Come, All Ye Faithful'** ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him born the King of angels:

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;

sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:

Glory to God, in the highest!

O come, let us adore him...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning;

Jesus, to Thee be all glory given,

Word of the Father, now In flesh appearing:

O come let us adore him...

*Benediction

Hope in the Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ; Know that God **loves you** more than you can possibly imagine; Serve God with **great joy**, and go now to live in Christ's **peace**. And all God's people say: **Amen!**

This Christmas Pageant was inspired by the Advent stories found in *Young Children and Worship* by Sonja Stewart and Jerome Berryman. *Journey to Bethlehem* was written by Rev. Rebecca Broom, with music adapted and directed by Chanelle Schaffer.

Cast List

Narrator.....	Maggie James
Isiah.....	Tony Romano
Mary	Rev. Andrea DeWard
Joseph.....	Rev. Nate DeWard
Angel Gabriel.....	Chanel Boschulte
Angel Tisum.....	Katie Landry
Proclaiming Angel.....	Kenra Plummer
Shepards.....	Ellis Wisehart Charles Matthew Tariq Davis
Magi	Dr. Ronald Nimno Bill Thompson Omar Ewen
Readers.....	Cayenne Boschulte Teshawn Mills Tina Romano
Candle Lighter.....	Amber Knight
Animals.....	Jabaryl Murell Kruz & Stephon Wilson Calvin Salzbrum Antoine, Adonis & Andreas Magras



Children's Angel Choir

Arya Dickson, Gabriella Dickson, Evelyn Grimaldi,
Naomi Lally, Margaux Hazell Liburd,
Kenra Plummer, Gianna L.K. Smalls, Lyanna Z. Smalls,
Xianna F. Smalls, Maya Stoller, Rayne Stoller

Adult Choir

Sopranos ~ Yolanda Thorpe, Diana Ray, Majestic Estrada-Peterson
Altos ~ Lori Thompson, Bonnie Troutman
Tennors ~ Phoebe Smith-Charles, Bill Thompson
Bass ~ Ty Troutman

Musicians

Guitar ~ Steve Richman
Drums ~ Ryan Diehl

Costumes

Sharee Winslow

Sets

Dave Whitter

Greaterers

Kim and Leroy Dennis

Special thanks to ALL the parents, singers, actors, and ALL the supporters behind the scenes who contributed their time and gifts to tell the story Journey to Bethlehem. God bless you, every one!

Nate DeWard-

Transitional Pastor

nate@strchurch.org

Chanelle Schaffer -

Minister of Music and Arts

music@stthomasreformedchurch.org

Shereé Haubrich-

Discipleship Coordinator

shaubrich2021@outlook.com

Vicky Gomez-Christian -

Operations Administrator

retreat@stthomasreformedchurch.org

Vicki Whitter -

Administrative Assistant

officeadmin@stthomasreformedchurch.org

The St. Thomas Reformed Church | P.O. Box 365 | St. Thomas, VI