



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

March 1, 2026

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Matthew 17:1-9; Psalm 121

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

Gathering Music

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

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Introit

"Hush, Hush"

Spiritual

Hush, Hush! Somebody's callin' my name

Oh, my Lord, oh, my Lord

What shall I do?

I'm gonna listen...

I'm gonna answer...

Call to Worship

Leader: God said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people, and your father's household to the land I will show you."

All: We come today, standing at the edge of the familiar, listening for that same call.

Leader: By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place he would later receive as an inheritance.

All: He went out, even though he did not know where he was going.

Leader: Like those who have gone before us, let us worship the God you who guides us

People: We worship with hearts united by our trust in God.

Prayer

*Hymn

'I Will Be Your God'

AURELIA

To Abraham and Sarah

The call of God was clear

Go forth, and I will show you

A country rich and fair

You need not fear the journey

For I have pledged my word

That you shall be my people

And I will be your God

From Abraham and Sarah
Arose a pilgrim race
Dependent for their journey
On God's abundant grace
And in their heart was written
By God, this saving word
That you shall be my people
And I will be your God

We, of the generation
On whom God's hand is laid
Can journey to the future
Secure and unafraid
Rejoicing in God's goodness
And trusting in God's word
That you shall be my people
And I will be your God

Call to Confession | Unison Prayer of Confession

Leader: Eternal God, you called Abraham to leave everything he knew for a promise he could not yet see.

All: We confess that we prefer the safety of the shore to the uncertainty of the deep.

Leader: We have clung to our own plans and "weapons of indifference" rather than stepping out in the vulnerability of faith.

All: Forgive our hesitation. By your Spirit, give us the courage to follow your lead.

Leader: Let us confess our sins in silence.

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**Leader:** Hear our prayers. Amen.

## Response #305 'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'

### Words of Assurance and Hope

**Anthem**

**"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

arr. Parks

The STRC Men's Choir

...TO HEAR GOD'S WORDS...

# Children's Message

– Shereé Haubrich

**\*Hymn #583**

**'Lead Me, Guide Me'**

Akers

**Scripture**

**Genesis 12:1–4**

**Message**

**"Steps of Faith"**

-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

**"Trust In God"**

Lake, Brown, et al.

Dr. Ron Nimmo

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine  
He's been my fourth man in the fire time after time  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood  
And what He did for me on Calvary is more than enough  
I trust in God, my Savior, the One who will never fail  
He will never fail  
Perfect submission, all is at rest  
I know the author of tomorrow has ordered my steps  
So, this is my story, and this is my song  
I'm praising my risen King and Savior all the day long  
I sought the Lord, and He heard, and He answered  
That's why I trust Him

## \*Doxology

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

## We Gather Around the Table

*(The Liturgy for Communion is found in the back of the red hymnal.)*

# Communion Music "Worship Medley" Gaither, Jones et al.

Shereé Haubrich & James Anderson

God sent his son, they called him Jesus  
He came to love, heal and forgive  
He lived and died to buy my pardon  
An empty grave is there to prove...  
You thought I was worth saving  
So You came and changed my life  
You thought I was worth keeping  
So You cleaned me up inside  
You thought I was to die for  
So You sacrificed Your life  
So I could be free, so I could be whole  
So I could tell everyone I know  
There is power, power, wonder-working power  
In the precious blood of the Lamb  
Glory to His name  
There to my heart was the blood applied  
Glory to His name, Hallelujah  
Oh, glory to the God who changed my life  
And I will praise You forever, I'll worship You forever  
I'll give You glory forever, I'll give you all forever  
'Cause You deserve it, Lord  
Because I am free, because I am whole  
And I will tell everyone I know  
And life is worth the living just because He lives

## Communion

*(All who desire to receive the Lord's Supper are invited forward. Beginning with the back pews, come forward using the side aisles, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and return to your seat using the center aisle Single serve cups are also available up front.)*

## \*Thanksgiving after Communion

## \*The Lord's Prayer

*(The congregation is invited to stand, join hands and sing)*

## \*Benediction

## Announcements:

Here are links to information on Raully Donahue so that you may familiarize yourself with him before his arrival March 4th, 2026

## **Raully Donahue Cover Letter**

<https://bit.ly/4aFkaKo>

## **Raully Donahue Resume**

<https://bit.ly/4sffYXD>

## **Raully Donahue Snapshot**

<https://bit.ly/4cNG3sa>

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

**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 of Judith Fetter (I Will Be Your God), the words and music of Fanny Crosby & Phoebe Knapp (Trust in God), and the words and music of our featured composer, Doris Akers (Lead Me, Guide Me). 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 March 22nd.

**Composer Spotlight - Doris Mae Akers (1923–1995)** was a pioneering African American gospel composer, singer, and choir director known as "Miss Gospel Music." Born in Missouri, she wrote her first song at age ten, later moving to Los Angeles to form the renowned Sky Pilot Choir, which was the city's first integrated gospel choir. She authored over 500 songs, including classics like "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" and "Lead Me, Guide Me," often collaborating with Mahalia Jackson. Ms. Akers was named Gospel Composer of the Year in 1960 and 1961, and her work was honored by the Smithsonian Institute, which labeled her recordings "National Treasures". Akers also helped bridge the cultural gap between black and white gospel music; she was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2001.

**Queen Louise Home - NEW LOCATION** - Join us as we continue our monthly ministry with the residents of the Queen Louise Homes for the Aged; we gather with them on the first Sunday of each month to share a time of hymns, Scripture, and prayer, and celebrate the Lord's Supper. The residents are now located in Palm Court Harbor (Solberg)--Please meet in the STRC parking lot at 12:45 to carpool, as parking is very limited.

**The Worship Team will meet this coming Saturday, March 7th, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Pavilion to begin planning for upcoming services and events

including V.I. History Month, Women's History Month, Lent, and Holy Week. New members are always welcome: join us as we work to enrich worship services with artistic elements including music, dance, drama, spoken word, and the visual arts, exploring the many ways in which the creative & performing arts can be used to enhance and deepen the experience of worship. For more info, contact Chanelle at [music@stthomasreformedchurch.org](mailto:music@stthomasreformedchurch.org)

**Join the Easter Choir!** - If you love the majesty of Palm Sunday, the sombre beauty of Good Friday, and the joyous celebration of Easter, why not join the Easter Choir? All are welcome to participate in the upcoming schedule of rehearsals, services. NO PREVIOUS CHORAL EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY--the only requirement is the ability to match pitch and follow direction. For more info, please contact Chanelle—or simply come to choir rehearsal any Thursday evening at 6:00 or Saturday morning at 10:00!

**XYG – Tuesday, March 3 | 6:00–7:30 PM.** Join us this week as we welcome a special guest from the Family Resource Center in recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. We'll have an important, age-appropriate conversation about healthy relationships, respect, and boundaries. Dinner provided. Invite a friend.

**XYG Exchange Trip – Parent Information Meeting.** Parents, we will be holding an Exchange Trip Information Meeting immediately after service on Sunday, March 1st. This meeting will cover trip details, expectations, fundraising progress, costs, and next steps. Your attendance is strongly encouraged as we move into the next phase of preparation. Thank you for partnering with us as we guide our students through this mission opportunity. For additional information, please see Shereé Haubrich.

**STRC Discipleship Circles (Small Groups) *Shaped by the Word.***

***Strengthened in Community.*** Discipleship Circles are launching soon. These small groups are designed to help us grow deeper in Christ through Scripture, prayer, and meaningful conversation in community. You may sign up through Church Center or by adding your name to the sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Registration will remain open through March 15th, and groups will begin in end of March 2026. For additional information, please see Shereé Haubrich at [shaubrich@strchurch.org](mailto:shaubrich@strchurch.org)

**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.

**Disciple Dollar Day – Donations Needed!** 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.

## GIVING THANKS

### Leading Worship Today:

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ministers:</b>     | All of us worshipping together                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Preaching:</b>     | Pastor Nate DeWard                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Music:</b>         | Chanelle Schaffer, Dr. Ronald Nimmo and the STRC Men's Choir: James Anderson, James Boschulte Jr., Forrest Broom, Martin Dukes III, William Howe, Simon Larsen, Dr. Stephen Mange, Fred Northup, Bill Thompson, Ty Troutman |
| <b>AV/Livestream:</b> | James Anderson, James Cobb, Ariel & Lyra Rosenthal, Trey Thompson & Dave Whitter                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Greeters:</b>      | Teshawn Mills and Eric Peterson                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## CONTACT US

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|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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