

THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH

2 KINGS 2:1-15

historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

June 29, 2025

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; 1 Kings 19:15-16,19-21; Psalm 16;
Psalm 77:1-2,11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

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

Gathering Music

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

Greeting | Ministry Updates

Introit **"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"** arr. McDonald
Amy Stewart-Himes & Tama McConnell, soloists

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth!

Amen!

The Lord is our God, faithful from generation to generation, calling leaders, equipping servants, and carrying us through every season.

We gather in reverence and hope, trusting in Gods unchanging hand.

The Spirit of the Lord moves anew among us today.

Come, Holy Spirit, fall fresh on us. Guide our path, strengthen our hearts, and renew our vision.

Prayer

***Hymn** **'God of the Ages, History's Maker'** BUNESSAN

God of the ages, history's Maker
Planning our pathway, holding us fast
Shaping in mercy all that concerns us
Here, now, we praise you, Lord of the past

God of this morning, gladly your children
Worship before you, trustingly bow
Teach us to know you, always among us
Quietly sovereign-- Lord of our now

God of tomorrow, strong overcomer
Princes of darkness own your command
What then can harm us? We are your people
Now and forever kept by your hand

Lord of past ages, Lord of this morning
Lord of the future, help us, we pray
Teach us to trust you, love and obey you
Crown you each moment, Lord of today

Call to Confession | Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we are slow to embrace change, even when it is Your Spirit who calls us forward. We sometimes hold too tightly to comfort, fear the unknown, and often forget that You are always faithful. Forgive us, O Lord. Help us to grieve what needs to be released, and to rejoice in what You are bringing to life. Renew our faith, and lead us by Your Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord...

Response

"God Is Good"

McReynolds

Jordan Hill

May your struggles keep you near the cross
And may your troubles show that you need God
And may your battles end the way they should
And may your whole life prove that God is good
May your bad days prove that God is good
May your whole life prove that God is good

Words of Assurance and Hope *(from Lamentations 3:22–23)*

Hear the good news from God's Word: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, renewed, and restored.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Choral Anthem "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

O God, our help in ages past
Our hope for years and years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home
Under the shadow of Your throne
Still may we ever dwell secure
Sufficient is Your arm alone
And our defense is sure
Pray be our guide while life shall last
And our eternal home
A thousand ages in Your sight
Are like an evening quickly gone
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun
O time, like an ever-flowing stream
Soon bears us, every one, away
We fly, forgotten as a dream
But God remembers, so do we
Your love will live on

Miller/Watts

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

Children's Message

*Hymn 'Not Afraid'

Lopez

Through the rain, through the clouds
Through the tests and the trials, You hold me
In the highs, in the lows, in the midst of the storms
Your hands won't let go; You won't let go

Refrain:

I will not be afraid
For I know who
Holds my tomorrows
And I will not be afraid
For I know You'll make a way
You'll make a way

My rock, my shield, my help, my strength
My hope, my God will make a way *(refrain)*

Scripture **2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14**

Message **"Clodhoppers"** Pastor Jeff Gargano

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|---------------------------------------|
| ...AND RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE" |
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Offering

(We give our gifts, tithes and offerings as an expression of gratitude for all of
God's blessings. Online giving is available at www.strchurch.org)

Offertory **"My Life Is In Your Hands"** Franklin

Phoebe Smith-Charles & Yolanda Thorpe

You don't have to worry, and don't you be afraid
Joy comes in the morning; troubles, they don't last always
For there's a friend named Jesus who will guide your steps each day
Just keep your heart wide open, and lift your hands and say
Oh, I know that I can make it, I know that I can stand
No matter what may come my way, my life is in Your hands
With Jesus I can take it; with Him, I know I can stand
No matter what may come my way, my life is in Your hands
So when your tests and trials, they seem to get you down
And all your friends and loved ones are nowhere to be found
Remember there's a friend named Jesus
who will guide your steps each day
Just keep your heart wide open, and lift your hands and say
Oh, I know that we can make it; I know that we can stand
No matter what may come our way, our lives are in Your hands

***Doxology**

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Service of Farewell & Godspeed

***Hymn #560** **'Leaning on the Everlasting Arms'**

Hoffman/Showalter

***Benediction**

Choral Benediction

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again" Rankin/Tomer

God be with you till we meet again
By His counsels guide, uphold you
With His sheep securely fold you
God be with you till we meet again
Till we meet, till we meet
Till we meet at Jesus' feet
Till we meet, till we meet
God be with you till we meet again

***Postlude**

Announcements:

Welcome guest preacher: Rev. Jeff Gargano, Senior Pastor of The Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns (NY) and former pastor at STRC (1995-2009).

Activity Time will not meet today. Children are welcome to stay in worship!

Today is Pastor Jeff Neevel's final service here at STRC. Please join us in the **Pavilion immediately after worship for a Farewell Reception** in his honor! Thank you, Pastor Jeff, for your many years of faithful service; we love you, and pray that God will continue to bless you and your family as you move into the next chapter of your lives.

Summer Camp 2025 "Bread of Life - Feed Us With Your Love!" begins **TOMORROW at Magens Bay!** Please pray for our teachers, staff, counselors and all the youth who are part of this summer camp experience.

Camp Director: Nalani Figueroa

Camp Counselors: Mia Benjamin, Nashibo Benjamin, Julianna Bolivar, Natalia Figueroa, Amy Stewart-Himes, Shadeen Honore, Grace King, Sonrisa O'Neal, Djarin O'Neal, Jean-Rene Oriol, Tama McConnell & Rose Whitter

Junior Counselors: Charles Matthew, Jaire Parker, Earl Questel, Leah Quetel & Carrell Sebastien.

Thank you to Wayne & Clea Semmerling for providing housing for our off-island staff!

Mark your Calendar – Summer Camp Beach Service Sunday, July 27 @ Magens Bay Shed #3 @ 10am.

Children's Choir is on hiatus until the fall; thank you, children, for ministering to us throughout the church year, and for bringing us joy all year 'round!

Support the Arts!

If you enjoyed Pastor Jeff's Farewell Concert, 'A Legacy of Praise', and would like to receive information about similar events and what's going on in the St. Thomas Arts & Entertainment community in general, Street Level VI has all the info you need! Run by Priscilla Lynn, Street Level VI is a great way to stay in the loop and find out about upcoming events. More information is available at streetlevelvi.com and on their FaceBook page, or add your name and email to the sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary to join.

Next Sunday Rev. Nate DeWard officially steps into the role of Interim Pastor. Born in Grand Rapids, MI on July 4, 1976, Nate was raised in a Christian home. He is the middle child in a family of three boys. A graduate of Calvin University and Western Theological Seminary, Nate has been in vocational ministry since 2003. Nate is married to Rev. Andrea DeWard and is they are the parents of two college-aged children, Noelle and Micah. Nate has served with Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministry (jailministry.org) for over ten years and is taking a "working sabbatical" from his role as executive director to serve STRC as a Transitional Pastor. (Nate can be reached at nate@strchurch.org, (231) 519-4914.)

For those Women interested in joining us for a Fun Summer Weekly Bible Study of : She is Called ~ Women of The Bible Study Series Part 1 & Part 2 . Please sign up or for more information please contact - Sharee Winslow at shareewinslow@icloud.com.

NOTES: _____

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

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| Ministers: | All of us worshiping together |
| Preaching: | Pastor Jeff Gargano |
| Liturgist: | Pastor Jeff Neevel |
| Music: | Chanelle Schaffer, Jordan Hill, Tama McConnell Amy Stewart-Himes, Phoebe Smith-Charles, Yolanda Thorpe & the Adult Choir |
| Greeters: | Susannah and Kenny Covert |
| AV/Livestream: | James Anderson, Luke Berry, James Cobb, Trey Thompson & Dave Whitter |

CONTACT US

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