

St. Thomas Reformed Church  
St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands  
Founded 1660



*January 9, 2022*

We Welcome One and All  
In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Service 10:00 am

# First Sunday After the Epiphany

*The liturgical color today is white in celebration of the birth of Jesus!*

## “We Gather In God’s Presence...”

### Gathering Music

### Greeting and Ministry Opportunities

### Call to Worship

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

**Amen!**

When Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit alighted on him like a dove, and a voice came from heaven:

*“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”*

**Now says the living God, the Creator: Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, and you are mine.**

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, for they shall not drown you.

*Offer to the Lord, O children of God, offer to the Lord all glory and power.*

**We offer to the Lord the glory of his name; we worship the Lord who is arrayed in holiness!**

### Prayer

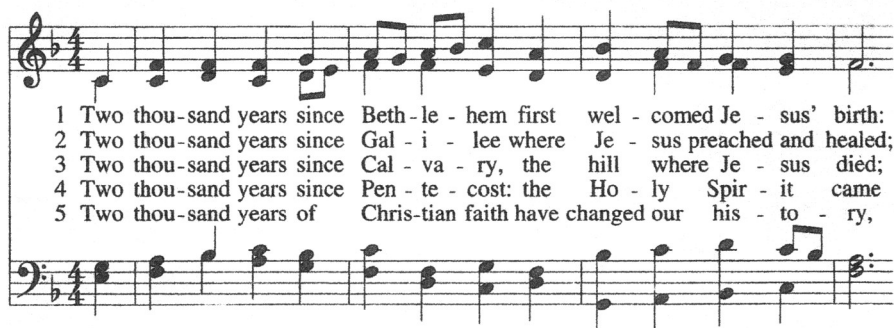
### \*Hymn

**‘Two Thousand Years Since Bethlehem’**

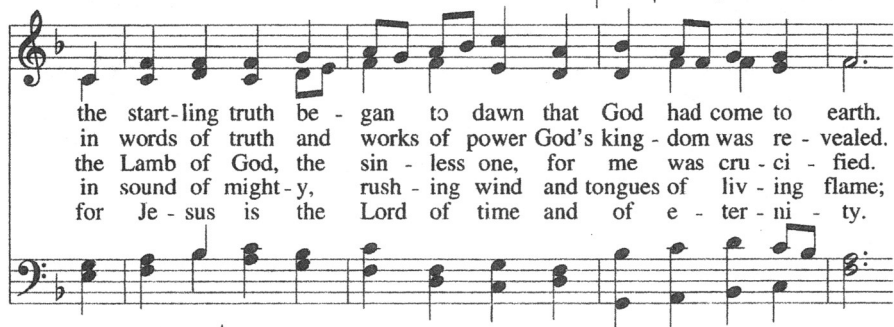
FOREST GREEN

Verses 1-3, 5

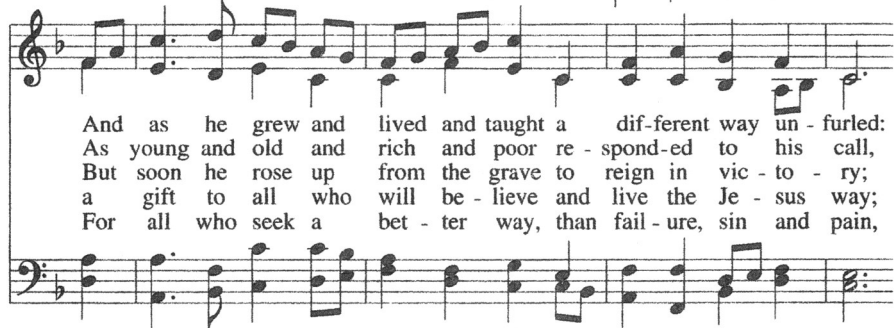
# 540 Two Thousand Years Since Bethlehem



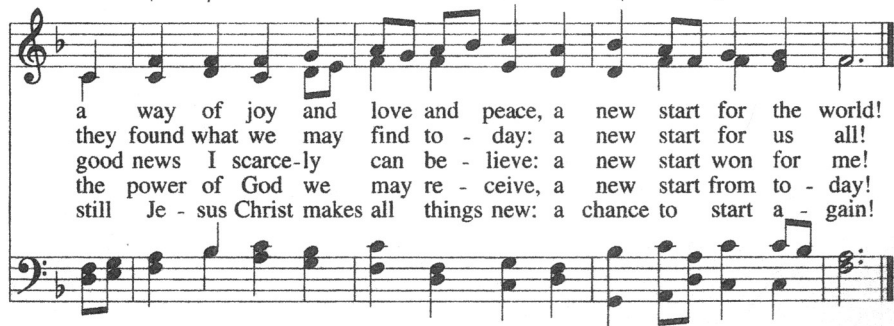
1 Two thou-sand years since Beth-le - hem first wel - comed Je - sus' birth;  
 2 Two thou-sand years since Gal - i - lee where Je - sus preached and healed;  
 3 Two thou-sand years since Cal - va - ry, the hill where Je - sus died;  
 4 Two thou-sand years since Pen - te - cost: the Ho - ly Spir - it came  
 5 Two thou-sand years of Chris-tian faith have changed our his - to - ry,



the start-ling truth be - gan to dawn that God had come to earth.  
 in words of truth and works of power God's king - dom was re - vealed.  
 the Lamb of God, the sin - less one, for me was cru - ci - fied.  
 in sound of might - y, rush - ing wind and tongues of liv - ing flame;  
 for Je - sus is the Lord of time and of e - ter - ni - ty.



And as he grew and lived and taught a dif-ferent way un - furled:  
 As young and old and rich and poor re - spond-ed to his call,  
 But soon he rose up from the grave to reign in vic - to - ry;  
 a gift to all who will be - lieve and live the Je - sus way;  
 For all who seek a bet - ter way, than fail - ure, sin and pain,



a way of joy and love and peace, a new start for the world!  
 they found what we may find to - day: a new start for us all!  
 good news I scarce-ly can be - lieve: a new start won for me!  
 the power of God we may re - ceive, a new start from to - day!  
 still Je - sus Christ makes all things new: a chance to start a - gain!

WORDS: Brian Hoare (1935-)

MUSIC: English melody; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

FOREST GREEN

8.6.8.6.D.

## Call to Confession

### Unison Prayer of Confession

God most holy, God most discerning, God most merciful, you know the complete, uncensored story of this church and each of these people. You know our tangled motives and our times of open disobedience. You understand our weaknesses and our strengths much better than we do. Please open our eyes to the truth, no matter how unpalatable it may seem to us. Give us a moment of spiritual clarity and honesty. Forgive us for all our failings as a church community, and for all our private sins of commission and omission; bless us with your freeing, healing grace. In the name of Christ our Redeemer...

Response # 519

‘Create In Me’

*Schoepf*

Create in me a new heart  
So that I'll give You more than part  
Of this, the life You've given me  
Create in me a new heart  
Then I will teach, and others know  
And I will learn, my faith will grow  
With You, I can create new dreams  
With You, I can change lesser schemes  
O God, new joy and a new start  
Create in me a new heart

### Words of Assurance and Hope

Now the One who created you, the God who shaped your life, says this: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” People of God, trust the plentiful love of this Savior, and know for sure that you are forgiven and restored.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

### Children’s Message

\*Hymn

‘Beyond the Beauty and the Awe’

NEW BRITAIN

Beyond the beauty and the awe  
Beyond the fear and dread  
We long, O God, to hear your word  
To taste your transformed bread

Our lives feel torn between the world  
Whose needs are grimly real  
And empty talk of peace and joy  
With distant, vague appeal

Oh, teach us how to hear your voice  
Despite the traffic's din  
To keep the blasts of rancor out  
And let your Spirit in

Then help us live as Jesus taught  
As light and salt and yeast  
That others may be brought to share  
Your promise and your feast

### **... To Hear God's Word...**

**Scripture**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-2

**Message**

**"Swimming Upstream"**

Pastor Jeff Neevel

### **And Respond With Gratitude...**

**Offering**

*Please place your offering in the box on the table at the entrance. You may also give online at [www.strcgiving.org](http://www.strcgiving.org)*

**Offertory**

**"Wade in the Living Water"**

*Fair/Barrett*

Wade in the water  
Wade in the water, children  
Wade in the water  
God is gonna trouble the water

Follow your dream to the living stream  
Wade on in, live again  
The water is grace; it's a healing place  
Wade on in, live again  
Come restore your troubled soul  
The mighty River Jordan's gonna make you whole  
Now let the Spirit take control  
Come to the waters, live again

Come to the streams of Living Water  
Come where the healing waters flow  
Come to the source, let your life be transformed  
Come to the waters of the Lord

Follow your Guide to the riverside  
Wade on in, live again  
The water is life, and it's deep & wide  
Wade on in, live again  
Plunge into the Gospel tide  
Leave behind your burdens and your sinful pride  
Your every need will be supplied  
Follow your dream to the living stream  
Wade on in, live again  
Wade in the water

**\*Doxology**

**Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer**

**\*Hymn**

**'Sing! A New Creation'**

*EBENEZER*

See insert.

**\*Benediction**

## GIVING THANKS:

### Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Liturgist:	Pastor Ben Rowe
Greeter:	Kiki Burnley
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer
AV Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Dave Whitter

## Lectionary Scripture Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10

Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

## Contact Information

Mailing Address PO Box 301769 St. Thomas, VI 00803

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Email: [mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org](mailto:mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org)

**STRC "APP" free from iTunes and Google Play**

**Like us on our Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasreformedchurch/>

Online giving:

[STRCGIVING.ORG](https://strciving.org)

If you are new to STRC, **WELCOME!** Please take a moment to fill out our digital connect card at <https://strchurch.org/im-new>

**Bathrooms** for the congregation's use are in the Undercroft.

**Wednesday Family Church Night** — will start on January 19th at 5:30pm and **not** on January 12th as originally scheduled. We look forward to seeing you back on the 19th!

**High school students** — XYG will be meeting at the First Lady's Garden on January 16 at 11:30am. Your \$100 deposit and missions trip covenant are due by the 16th. The missions covenant can be filled out online at [www.strchurch.org/missions-covenant](http://www.strchurch.org/missions-covenant). Contact Pastor Ben if you have any questions or aren't able to make it | [pastorben@strchurch.org](mailto:pastorben@strchurch.org) | 712-360-1519

### **Confirmation Class:**

**Youth (6th - 12th grade)** — Have you been thinking about or wanting to explore your faith and get a clearer understanding of your connection to God and the church? A decision to follow Jesus is the most important decision a person can make in one's life! Understanding that decision and why it is so important is why you're invited to sign up for Confirmation Class. You can sign up at [www.strchurch.org/confirmation-class](http://www.strchurch.org/confirmation-class)

**Adults** — If you're interested in being a mentor to a student going through confirmation, you can sign up, too! Register to be a mentor at [www.strchurch.org/confirmation-class](http://www.strchurch.org/confirmation-class).

**Due to high Covid** numbers and recommendations from the CDC and the American Choral Directors Association, **all STRC choirs are currently on hiatus**. Singers, your voices are sorely missed, but safety needs to be our top priority. We are monitoring the situation, and hope to be able to resume soon with strong mitigation factors in place—please check with Chanelle for updates.