

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



First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

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

Service 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

The liturgical color today is purple, as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.

“ We Gather In God’s Presence...”

Greeting & Announcements

Prelude

“Mysterious Ballet”

Faber

Ellis Wisheart

Call to Worship: Lighting of the Advent Candle (*Hope*)

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. This is the candle of hope.

With Christians around the world, we use this light to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God’s Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

May we receive God’s light as we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them, light has shined.”

Congregational Response (*to be sung while the first purple candle is lit*)

‘Come By Here’

arr. Smallwood

Come by here, my Lord, come by here (3x)

Oh, Lord, come by here

We are waiting, Lord, come by here (3x)

Oh, Lord, come by here

Come to save us, Lord, come by here (3x)

Oh, Lord, come by here

Prayer

*Hymn#119

‘O Come, O Come Emmanuel’

VENI EMMANUEL

verses 1,2 & 4

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord God, our lives are filled with sin. We forget our neighbor’s needs and do not love you above all else. We need a Savior. God of light and life, we need you now at this moment. Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts. O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.

Response #136

‘Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming’

verses 2 & 4

PLEADING SAVIOR

Words of Assurance and Hope

Children’s Message

***Hymn**

‘God Almighty, We Are Waiting’

HYFRYDOL

God Almighty, we are waiting
For a Savior to appear
Meet us in our desert journey
Give a sign that you are near
Burning bushes, parted waters
Food aplenty in the wild
As we look for signs and wonders
Help us see you in a child

God Incarnate, we are waiting
For the feast day of your birth
Looking back and looking forward
To the Christ's return to earth
Help us to proclaim the gospel
‘Til the world is reconciled
Let us set your holy table
For each woman, man, and child

God the Spirit, we are waiting
For your presence here and now
Humbled by our sinful weakness,
At your mercy we will bow
Search our hearts and make us ready
Speak in language strong and mild
Help each one of us, your people
To receive you like a child

... To Hear God's Word...

Scripture

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Message

“God Who Interrupts”

Pastor Ben

Rowe

And Respond With Gratitude...

Offering

(You are invited to bring your gifts to the altar and place them in the offering plates or in the box by the front sanctuary door. Online giving is also available at www.strcgiving.org.)

Offertory

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Holst/Rosetti

Andrea Lee

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long ago

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ

Angels and archangels may have gathered there
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss
Worshiped the Beloved with a kiss

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part
Yet, what I can, I give him: give my heart

*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn**

‘Come to the Light of Hope’

ITALIAN HYMN

Come to the light of hope
Behold salvation's scope
Prophets foretell
God with us seeks to live
Our sin, with grace, forgive
Eternal life to give
Immanuel

Go up and seek the Lord
Give thanks with one accord
Learn of God's ways
Let God assess with grace
And spears and wars erase
So love and joy replace
Folly with praise

Now is the time to wake
And error's ways forsake
Live in the light
Redemption will relieve
All things that do deceive
With hope, we still believe
Christ is the light

***Benediction**

Choral Benediction

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

Cloninger/Cason

While we are waiting, come
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel
While we are waiting, come



Lectionary Scripture Readings for this week:

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1- 6



*A warm welcome to our visitors.
You are invited to complete the
visitor registration forms on the back table. Please
then place them in the offering plate.*

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Pastor Ben Rowe
Liturgist:	Leroy and Kim Dennis
Greeter:	Chantal Figueroa
Advent Wreath:	Leroy and Kim Dennis
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Andrea Lee, and the STRC Adult Choir
Live Stream Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Lucy Sutton, and Dave Whitter

SPECIAL THANKS

Special Thanks go out to our wonderful and creative Decorating Team—Felipe Ayala, CJ Oleari and Desiree Francis. Every year they delight and bless us with the care with which they decorate and transform our Sanctuary for the holidays.



Announcements:

Christmas Eve Service

Reserve your spot for our Christmas Eve service at www.strchurch.org/silentnight. Seating will be limited and restricted to those who sign up so make sure you secure your seats today!

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Our Family Church Night will be held this Wednesday, December 1. Remember Dinner is from 5:30 to 6:00PM and we are serving Lasagna! If you're interested or would like to help volunteer, please contact Pastor Ben (pastorben@strchurch.org).

New Members!

It is with great joy that we will welcome eight **new members** during worship on December 5.

Scott & Kiki Burnley

Kenny & Susannah Covert

Pastor Ben & Emily Rowe

John & Joy Townsend

2022 Inquirer's Class

Another class will be forming and meeting in late January/February of 2022. If you are interested in learning more about the Reformed Church and membership through baptism and confession of faith, you may sign up at www.strchurch.org.

Children's Choir & YouthSong are back!

Both our Children's Choir (ages 3 to 12) and YouthSong, our choir for teens (ages 13 & up), have resumed regular rehearsals. Children's Choir will meet today and each Sunday morning after worship from 11:30 a.m. to noon. YouthSong rehearses Saturdays from 4 to 5 p.m. We have some wonderful Christmas material to start with, and I know that we all look forward to hearing our young people's voices in worship again soon! For more info, please contact Chanelle—all are welcome!

Announcements continued:

Join the STRC Christmas Choir!

Advent Season will soon be upon us; if you love Christmas music, why not join the Christmas Choir! All who are available are welcome to participate in the full schedule of rehearsals, services, and special events. No previous experience is necessary--the only requirement is the ability to match pitch. If you'd love to sing but can't make a full-time commitment--that's fine! We welcome volunteers throughout the months of November & December, for one or more events. If you're interested, please contact Chanelle at music@stthomasreformedchurch.org

SAVE THE DATE

Join us on Sunday December 12 at 6:00 pm for an orchestral **Christmas Concert** at STRC featuring Gylchris Sprauve and friends.



Contact Information

Jeffrey Neevel - Pastor of Congregational Engagement

Lead roles—Worship, Preaching, Pastoral Care & Counseling,
Community Outreach

Email: pastorjeff@strchurch.org

Ben Rowe-Pastor of Congregational Formation

Lead roles—Christian Education, Discipleship, Small Group Ministries

Email: pastorben@strchurch.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 301769, St. Thomas, VI 00802

Website: <https://strchurch.org/>

Telephone: 340-776-8255