

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



December 19, 2021

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

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The liturgical color today is purple in preparation for the birth of our Savior!

“We Gather In God’s Presence...”

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Prelude

“Villancico de Natividad”

Barrios

Bonham Geller, guitar

Lighting of the Advent Candle *(Love)*

Chantal Figueroa, Nicholas Figueroa & Sara Kirkpatrick

Today we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath. This is the candle of LOVE.

Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd.

Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others.

As God is love, let us be love also.

Congregational Response *(to be sung while the pink 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

Dwell among us, Lord, come by here (3x)
Oh Lord, come by here

Prayer

*Hymn

‘We Lift the Light of Hope’

CORONATION

We lift the light of hope, O God
Your presence burning bright
In praise we sing the gift you bring
Our hope complete in Christ
In praise we sing the gift you bring
Our hope complete in Christ

We lift the light of peace, O God
The Lord of truth and right
In your domain let justice reign
And bring us peace in Christ
In your domain let justice reign
And bring us peace in Christ

We lift the light of joy, O God
Your praise is our delight
Your blessings flow that all may know
Unbounded joy in Christ
Your blessings flow that all may know
Unbounded joy in Christ

We lift the light of love, O God
Your candle in our night
You come to give and help us live
The mighty love of Christ
You come to give and help us live
The mighty love of Christ

We lift the light of Christmas day
And greet eternal life
Now hope and peace and joy and love
Are born in Jesus Christ
Now hope and peace and joy and love
Are born in Jesus Christ

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Forgive us Lord,
for not bending the knee,
for not reading your Word,
for not searching our hearts,
for not facing our sins.

Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God!
Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year,
we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed
resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory. Amen.

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

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, Immanuel

Words of Assurance and Hope

Children’s Choir Anthem “His Name Is Wonderful”

Tomlin/Cash

Come see the baby, crib for a bed
His mother Mary lay down His sweet head
The starlight was shining, the wise men were led
Come see the baby and worship Him

Chorus

His name is Wonderful Counselor
Mighty God, Prince of Peace
Everlasting Father, Emmanuel
Holy One, Son of God
Savior of the world

Come and adore Him on bended knee
He came to ransom someone like me
What could I offer? What could I bring?
Come and adore Him, King of kings (*chorus*)

And the greatness of His reign will never end
Let there be peace on earth
And all goodwill to men
Come let us worship Him (*chorus*)

Children's Message

*Hymn

'Love Has Come'

BRING A TORCH

(see insert)

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

Scripture

Micah 5:2-5

Message

"A Weary World Rejoices!"

Pastor Jeff Neevel

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.strciving.org.)

Offertory

"Let Us Be"

Dyba/Hurst

YouthSong

The heavens rang with praise the night that You were born
The longing world beheld the Savior come
You lived to bring us peace; You died to make us free
That we would live to show eternal love
Because You came, our hearts will proclaim

Chorus:

Let us be joy to the world, let us be peace on the earth
That all would sing 'come let us adore Him'
Let us be wonders of heavenly grace, hope, and love
That all would sing 'come let us adore Him'
Come adore Him

Our everything we give, far as the curse is found
To be a light bright-shining in the east
In darkness, in despair, we will meet the broken there
And guide them to the foot of mercy's seat
So let our lives reveal Your light *(chorus)*

O Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Prince of Peace
Merciful Father of life everlasting *(chorus)*

***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 & the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn**

'We Hail You, God's Anointed'
(see insert)

ELLACOMBE

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction 'While We Are Waiting, Come'**

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

Cloninger/Cason

**Please stand.*

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us viewing together
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Liturgist:	Pastor Ben Rowe
Greeter:	Cheryl Ong
Advent Wreath:	Chantal Figueroa, Nicholas Figueroa & Sarah Kirkpatrick
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Bonham Geller
STRC Children's Choir	Gabriella & Arya Dixon, Ryanne Flowers, Anna Neevel, Mya & Michael Rodriguez Isabella Romano, William Rowe Elizabeth Strickling
YouthSong	Grace King, Christine Rowe, Eesha Ved
Live Stream Team:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Lucy Sutton, and Dave Whitter

Lectionary Scripture Readings

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

BIG thanks to everyone who signed up to attend our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The service will be held on Friday, December 24 @ 7pm. Because of DOH regulations, all **attendees must be fully vaccinated** from Covid-19, masks must be worn throughout the service. Sign-ups are now officially closed, but we encourage you to get together with friends, family or neighbors and throw a watch party. The service will be live-streamed at www.strchurch.org/watch . If you would like to use candles at home, they can be picked up in the church office.

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

We offer our grateful thanks to the children and youth of the St. Thomas Reformed Church for leading us in song this morning! **The two groups are on break for the rest of this month.** Rehearsals for **YouthSong** resume **Saturday, January 8th**, at 4 p.m; the **Children's Choir** will resume after worship on **Sunday, January 9th.**

Wednesday Fellowship Night The regular WFN will start again on **January 12, 2022!**

Opportunity to serve! If you would like to volunteer to serve lunch at the Salvation Army (every Tuesday 12-1pm) please place your name and contact info on the sheet in the back today or contact Linda Gidley (340) 690-2814.

This year's live Christmas Tree is given in loving memory of Daniel, Neisha and Tyler Yannone.

Contact Information

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