



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

November 30, 2025

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14;

Matthew 24:36-44

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

Advent I: Hope - Be Patient Until the Lord Comes"

Gathering Music

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

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Introit **'O Come, Let Us Adore Him'** Traditional

O come let us adore Him (3x)

Christ the Lord

O come and dwell among us (3x)

Christ the Lord

Come shine Your light in darkness (3x)

Christ the Lord

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather today, O God, often restless in our waiting. But your Word speaks clearly "Be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."

People: We confess our impatience, O Lord. Establish our hearts in your truth and strengthen us to trust your perfect timing.

Leader: We look to your promise, knowing that you are not distant, but near. Let us cast off worry and root our spirits deeply in the assurance of your constant presence.

People: We come to worship the near God! We fix our gaze on Jesus Christ, worshipping in peace, patience, and joyful expectation. Amen!

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Hope

Smalls family

Opening Prayer

*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

Call to Confession | Confession

Pause of silence

*Assurance of Pardon

Children's Dismissal

During the next song, we will release children, second through ninth grade. C&W are in class the entire hour.

Response #119 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' v. 1-3

VENI EMMANUEL

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

Scripture **James 5:7-10 (Epistle)** -Pastor Nate

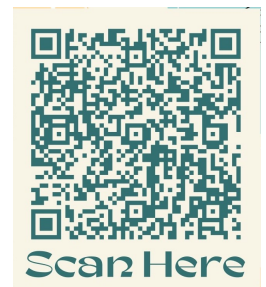
Message **"Be Patient Until the Lord Comes"**
Pastor Nate DeWard

The Response

...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 strchurch.org/give or Scan this QR code.



Offertory **"Advent Hymn"** Nockels
Chanelle Schaffer & Yolanda Thorpe

Christ, whose glory fills the skies
Christ, the everlasting light
Son of righteousness, arise
And triumph o'er these chains of mine
Come, thou long awaited One
In the fullness of Your love
And loose this heart bound up by shame
And I will never be the same

So here I wait in hope of You
All my soul's longing through and through
Dayspring from on high be near
And Daystar in my heart appear
Dark and cheerless is the morn
Until Your love in me is born
And joyless is the evening song
Until Emmanuel has come

***Doxology**

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

***Song 'Christ, Be Our Light'**

Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today

Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair
Your word alone has powr to save us
Make us your living voice (*refrain*)

Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come (*refrain*)

***Benediction**

Announcements:

Thanks to our fantastic **Sanctuary decorating team- Felipe Ayala Jr., Desiree Francis and CJ Oleari** for transforming our Sanctuary and filling our hearts with the spirit and beauty of the Advent season!

COMING IN DECEMBER!

- 7 ~ Advent II Peace**, Communion will be celebrated.
1pm - Queen Louise Home. It's not too early to start with the Christmas Carols. Meet in the church parking lot at 12:45pm to carpool. Wear your best Christmas sweater!
- 7 ~ 5th Annual Christmas Concert** featuring Gylchris Sprauve 6pm
- 14 ~ Advent III Joy, Christmas Pageant** 10am Service
- 21 ~ Advent IV Love**
- 24 ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight** Service 7pm

Children's Choir rehearses this morning in the Music Room after Sunday School. All children ages 4-12 are welcome as we prepare music for the Christmas Concert, the Christmas Pageant, Christmas Eve, and more!

Christmas Concert

STRC & Gylchris Sprauve are presenting our 5th Annual Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary at 6 pm NEXT SUNDAY, December 7th, featuring a live orchestra and the Virgin Islands Children's Christmas Choir! Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, refreshments, break-down and more--if you are able to help, please contact Chanelle and/or add your name and area of interest to the sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary.

Christmas Pageant

STRC's Annual Christmas Pageant takes place during worship on Sunday 12/14, featuring a cast of 20, combined choirs, a 3-piece band, and a multitude of helpers backstage. If you're interested in being a part of this beloved STRC tradition, as a cast member, singer, or backstage volunteer, contact Chanelle ASAP!

Join the STRC Christmas Choir!

If you love Christmas music, why not join the Christmas choir? All are welcome to participate in the upcoming schedule of rehearsals, services, and special events. NO PREVIOUS CHORAL EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY--the only requirement is the ability to match pitch and the desire to make a joyful noise! For more info, contact Chanelle--or simply come to choir

rehearsal any Thursday evening at 6 p.m. / Saturday morning at 10 a.m. in the Music Room.

Musicians Needed-- If you play an instrument and would like to share your gifts, there's a place for you in the Music Ministry! All instruments and levels are welcome and encouraged to participate. Please reach out to Chanelle to arrange a time to meet and make music!

The Salvation Army Angel Tree – buy a gift for a child. Angels are available for pick-up today – see CJ Oleari or Georgeann McNichols – gifts can be purchased and returned by Sunday, December 14th.



Consistory Nominations - STRC is looking for you to nominate consistory leaders. Learn more and nominate members of STRC to serve. Nominations close at 11pm on Sunday 12/7.



SMALL GROUPS ARE COMING BACK TO STRC!

We're preparing to launch new Small Groups in January 2026, spaces to grow in faith, build community, and walk together in discipleship. To complete our Small Groups Interest Survey, scan this QR code.

XYG Youth Group Update Thank you to everyone who supported and participated in our very first XYG youth group gathering! Our teens showed up with energy, curiosity, and hearts ready to grow. We will meet again on **Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00pm in the sanctuary.** If you or your family would like to **sponsor a meal** for our teens on an upcoming Tuesday night, please contact Sheree Haubrich for more information. Your support helps us create a welcoming space where our youth can learn, connect, and thrive.



SUMMER CAMP 2025 EVALUATION Please complete the Summer Camp 2025 Evaluation by scanning the QR code or picking up a paper copy at the back of the church. Return all forms to Sheree` Haubrich. Thank you for helping us continue to grow and serve our campers with excellence!

STRC Pastoral Search Process Update - Our Search Team is currently interviewing highly qualified candidates to be our next Senior Pastor. Please keep them in prayer.

Giving Summary:	October 31, 2025		Jan 1 to Oct 31, 2025	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	\$21,055	\$39,852	\$259,926	\$390,910

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers: All of us worshiping together
Preaching: Pastor Nate DeWard
Music: Chanelle Schaffer, Yolanda Thorpe & the Adult Choir
Greeters: Felipe Ayala Jr. and friends
AV/Livestream: James Anderson, James Cobb,
 Lyra Rosenthal & Dave Whitter

CONTACT US

Nate DeWard -	Transitional Pastor nate@strchurch.org
Chanelle Schaffer -	Minister of Music and Arts music@stthomasreformedchurch.org
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