

Mysteries of The Kingdom of Heaven

He Who Has Ears... Hear!



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

May 17, 2026

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

THE DAILY TABLE READING FOR WEEK 2 (JUNE 22-26)

THEME: WAITING WITHOUT LOOSING HEART

(M) Isaiah 40:28-31; (T) Psalm 27:13-14;

(W) Lamentations 3:22-26;

(TH) Galatians 6:7-10; (F) Romans 8:22-28

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

Gathering Music

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

Greeting | Ministry Opportunities

Introit

"Tu Mi Dios"

Vazquez

Josué Casillas & Paola Maria Vazquez

Tu mi Dios, eres mi unico amor.
Tu mi Dios, sabes muy bien quien soy.
Nadie mas puede hacerme feliz.
Nadie mas me conoce como tu a mi.
*You my God, are my only love.
You my God, know truly who I am.
Nobody else can bring me joy.
Nobody else knows me like you do.*

Call to Worship *Psalm 30:2-4*

Leader: O Lord my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.

People: To You , O Lord, I cried, and to You I made supplication.

Leader: O Lord, You brought up my soul from Sheol.

People: You restored me to life.

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord and give thanks to God's holy name.

People: You have turned my mourning into dancing and clothed me with joy. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

***Hymn 'Lord, We Hear Your Words with Gladness'**

BEECHER

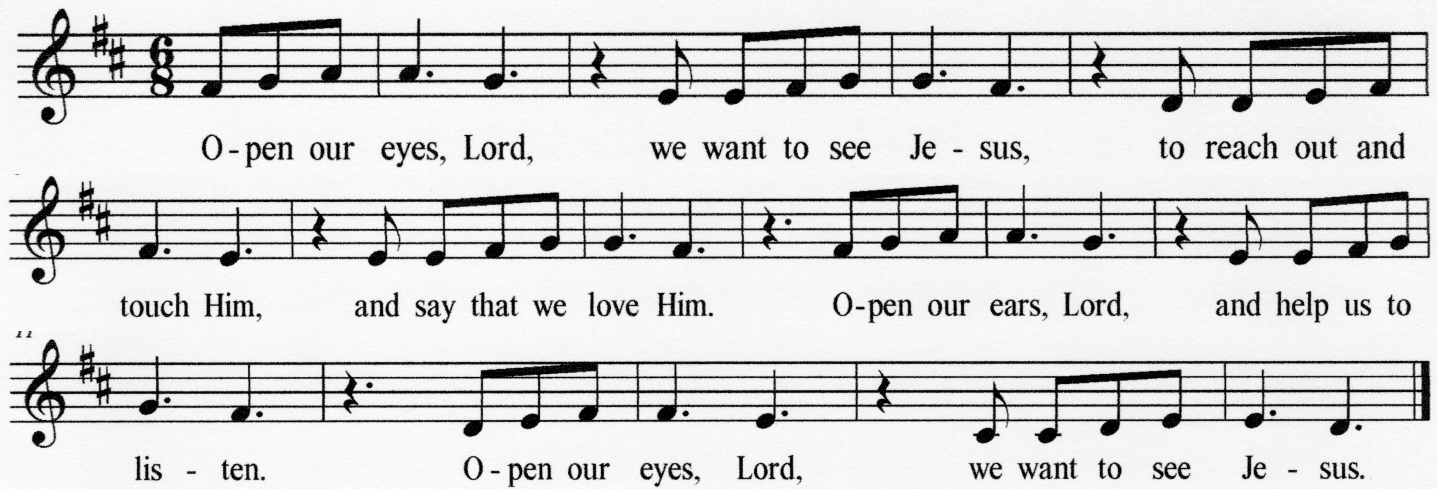
Lord, we hear your words with gladness
You are speaking - we rejoice
Words of love and life and freedom
Help us make their truth our choice
Now, in holy celebration
For the Word, we worship you
Spoken, written, known in Jesus
Ours today to hear anew

May we hear with understanding
By your Spirit taught and led
May the springs of all our being
By your living Word be fed
May our hearts accept with meekness
All the grace your light makes known
May obedience mark our footsteps
Till we make each word our own

You are speaking; yours the fullness,
Ours the wealth of these, your words
Debtors, then, as living letters
We must make your gospel heard
By your Spirit's power transform us
Shed your saving light abroad
Till our lives, by love in action
Show our world the truth of God

Call to Confession | Unison Prayer Confession

Loving God, we come to talk to you now, knowing that we have not always lived as you would have us live. We have strayed from your ways, following our own will rather than adhering to your path. We have not always listened when you have spoken, or responded when you have called. Source of all life, forgive us. Draw us closer to you, open our eyes to see you and our ears to hear you. Thank you that, through Jesus, we are forgiven. Amen.



O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus, to reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him. O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to lis - ten. O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Words of Assurance and Hope

Children's Choir Anthem "In His Hands"

Chibooks

He's got the whole world, everyone in His hands
 You and me, safe and sound in His mighty, mighty hands
 God holds the mountains high, God holds the oceans wide
 The stars and the moon at night
 All in His hands, God holds it all in His hands
 God holds the baby small, God holds the dads and moms
 Grandmas and grandpas, too
 All in His hands, God holds it all in His hands
 He's got me, He's got me, He's got you, He's got you
 He's got the whole world too, God holds it all in His hands

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD'S

Children's Message

~ Pastor Jeff Gargano

Children's Blessing & Dismissal

~ Shereé Haubrich

Congregational Greeting / Passing the Peace

*Song 'Hush! Hush! Somebody's'

Spiritual

Hush, Hush! Somebody's callin' my name (3x)
 Oh my Lord, oh my Lord
 What shall I do?

Sounds like Jesus; somebody's callin' my name (3x)
Oh my Lord, oh my Lord
What shall I do?

I'm gonna answer, somebody's callin' my name (3x)
Oh my Lord, oh my lord
That's what I'll do

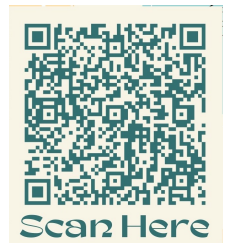
Scripture: **Genesis 21:1-21** ~ Tony Romano
 Matthew 13:9-17 ~ Tina Romano

Sermon: **"Ears to Hear"** ~ Pastor Jeff Gargano

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 www.strchurch.org/give



Offertory **"Wonderful Words of Life"** Bliss, arr. Gilpin

*Doxology

Pastoral Prayer | The Lord's Prayer

*Closing Song 'God Has Spoken by the Prophets'

God has spoken by the prophets
Spoken the unchanging Word
Each from age to age proclaiming
God the one, the righteous Lord
'Mid the world's despair and turmoil
One firm anchor holding fast
God eternal reigns forever

HYFRYDOL

God the first and God the last
God has spoken by Christ Jesus
Christ, the everlasting Son
Brightness of the Father's glory
With the Father ever one
Spoken by the Word incarnate
God of God, ere time was born
Light of light, to earth descending
Christ, as God in human form

God is speaking by the Spirit
Speaking to our hearts again
In the age-long Word declaring
God's own message, now as then
Through the rise and fall of nations
One sure faith yet standing fast
God abides, the Word unchanging
God the first and God the last

*Benediction

Postlude

"O Perfect Father"

Macleod/Wood

Announcements

This morning we welcome guest preacher Rev. Jeff Gargano. He is the Senior Pastor of The Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns (NY) and the former pastor of STRC (1995-2009)

Today is Father's Day and Birthday Sunday! Please join us in the pavilion after service for fellowship. Happy Birthday and may the good Lord bless: Brigitte Bornn, Melissa Borsodi, Rebecca Broom, Paris Carty, Joel Comissiong, Rachel DeWalt, Ivan Figueroa, Nalani Figueroa, Maxine Fuentes, David Haddow, Azani Jarvis, Theresa Pearsall, Bert Prince, Courtney Reese, Lecia Richmond, Natasha Rickson-Smith, Alejandro Rosario, Sandi Schaeffer, Elizabeth Strickling, Erin Taylor, Brian Via, Tracy Williams, Zac Williams, Kruz Wilson, Stefon Wilson, If your name is not on the list please see Vicki.

The Daily Table – A Church-Wide Scripture Journey - Join us each weekday as we gather around God's Word through The Daily Table. This Week's Theme: Waiting Without Losing Heart.

Many thanks to the young singers in our Children's Choir; they have delighted us with their beautiful voices, energy, and enthusiasm throughout the church year. After this morning's performance, the Children's Choir will be on hiatus until the fall, so please take a moment to thank them for all they've contributed to worship over the past ten months!

Last chance to submit song requests for next Sunday!

If you have a favorite hymn or song you'd like to hear and/or sing in worship during next Sunday's 'Service in Song', please submit the title(s) by the end of the day today! We will include as many requests as possible. The service will include Scripture and the stories behind the songs we love, and will feature guest singers and musicians including this morning's flutist, Josué Casillas.

Miyazawa Flute Artist Josué Casillas has been the Principal Flutist of the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra over 20 years, after serving in the Houston Grand Opera and the Symphony of Southeast Texas. Josué is the tenured professor in flute at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, position he has held since 2007. Josué attended Rice University (MM 1994), Nice Ecole de Formation Musicale (France 1990), and The Cleveland Institute of Music (BM 1988).

Paola María Vázquez - Born in San Juan, I began studying classical violin at the age of three. At ten, I made my debut as a soloist with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, returning as a featured soloist at ages fifteen and seventeen. At sixteen, I attended the Manhattan School of Music for two years before pursuing my BA at Rice University on a full scholarship, and was honored to receive a Presidential Scholarship from Berklee College of Music. After completing my classical training, I joined the Aspen Music Festival and School as a fellow and performer. As an educator and performer, I have worked throughout the U.S. and the Caribbean, sharing music in concert halls, schools, community programs, and collaborative artistic projects, and performed as a section violinist with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra during its 2024 season. Above all, I hope the music I create brings people closer to themselves, to one another, and to God.

Camp Heroes: Triumphant Sound 2026 - We are in the final stretch! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our church family, we have already raised \$4,370 toward our goal of sponsoring 8 children for a full month of Summer Camp 2026. There is still time to help. Visit the Camp Heroes board, select an envelope, and return your gift by June 28.

Summer Camp Prayer & Fasting - As we prepare for Summer Camp 2026, we invite the congregation to join us in prayer and fasting for our campers, families, volunteers, and staff. Pray for safety, spiritual growth, strong relationships, and God's provision in every area.

XYG will meet Tuesday, June 23 at 6:00–7:30 PM before pausing for Summer Camp. Youth Group will resume on August 18. All middle and high school students are welcome.

Women's Ministry Secret Sisters - If you would like to participate in the Secret Sisters program but have not yet selected a name, please see Sheree after worship.

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers: All of us worshiping together
Preaching: Pastor Jeff Gargano
Music: Chanelle Schaffer, Josué Casillas, Paola Maria Vázquez, James Cobb, Abby Horvath, the STRC Children's Choir, and the Adult Choir
Readers: Tina and Tony Romano
AV/Livestream: James Cobb, Ariel Rosenthal, Lyra Rosenthal, Trey Thompson and Dave Whitter
Greeters: Gordon Chisholm and Amy Wagner

CONTACT INFORMATION

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