

INVESTING IN



ETERNITY



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

September 21, 2025

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 79:1-9, Psalm 113;
1 Timothy 2: 1-7; Luke 16:1-13

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

Gathering Music

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

Welcome | Ministry Updates

God's Greeting

Pastor Nate DeWard

*Mutual Greeting

*Call to Worship

CJ Grier

*Hymn #459 "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

Taylor

Call to Confession

Andrea DeWard

Prayer of Confession ~ *From Jeremiah 8-9 and Psalm 79*

Leader: With heavy hearts we echo the prophet Jeremiah's lament:

"My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick..."

All: I am broken, I mourn, and horror has seized me...

Leader: O that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears,

All: so that I might weep day and night."

Leader: With contrite spirits we join the psalmist's prayer:

"Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors;

All: let your compassion come speedily to meet us.

Leader: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;

All: deliver us and forgive our sins, for your name's sake. Amen

Words of Assurance ~ *Psalms 40:1-4*

*Song of Faith

"Trust In God"

Blessed assurance
Jesus is mine
He's been my fourth man in the fire
Time after time
Born of his spirit
Washed in his blood
And what he did for me on Calvary
Is more than enough

Chorus:

I trust In God
My Savior
The One who will never fail
He will never fail

Perfect submission
All is at rest
I know the author of tomorrow
Has ordered my steps
So this is my story
And this is my song
Praising my risen king and savior
All the day long

Chorus:

Bridge:

I sought the Lord and he heard and he answered
I sought the Lord and he heard and he answered
I sought the Lord and he heard and he answered
That's why I trust Him
That's why I trust Him

...TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

Scripture

Luke 16:1-13

1 Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2 So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' 3 Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' 7 Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. 10 "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11 If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13 No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Message ~ Stewarding Pain: "Make the Best of It"

Pastor Nate DeWard

...AND RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE"

Sermonic Hymn "The Publican and Pharisee" **(To the tune "Just As I Am")**

Behold how sinners disagree,
The publican and Pharisee!
One doth his righteousness proclaim,
The other owns his guilt and shame.

This one at humble distance stands,
And cries for grace with lifted hands
That boldly rises near the throne,
And talks of duties he has done.

The Lord their diff'rent language knows,
And diff'rent answers he bestows;
The humble soul with grace he crowns,
Whilst on the proud his anger frowns.

Dear Father! let me never be
Joined with the boasting Pharisee;
I have no merits of my own
But plead the suff'rings of thy Son.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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

***Doxology**

***Offertory Prayer**

***Hymn**

"I Give Myself Away"

Chorus:

I give myself away
I give myself away
So You can use me

Here I am
Here I stand
Lord my life is in Your hands
Lord I'm longing to see
Your desires revealed in me

Chorus:

Take my heart
Take my life
As a living sacrifice
All my dreams
All my plans
Lord I place them in Your hands

Bridge

My life is not my own
To You I belong
I give myself
I give myself to You

***Benediction**

Announcements:

TODAY is BIRTHDAY SUNDAY!!! All are invited to a time of fellowship in the Pavilion immediately following today's service to celebrate our September birthdays with cake and refreshments.

Happy birthday & may the good Lord bless:

Tina Comissiong-Dickson, Luke Davis, Tendaji Davis, Olin Davis,
Don Hancock, David Himes, Haley Jennings, Dolores Jowers,
Grace King, Eliana Lima, Anne Mackenzie, Gail Prince, Terry Robinson
Mya Rodriguez, Nathalie Roumou, Sharee Winslow, Gurlande Yvon.

If you don't see your name on this list – please take a minute to write your name on our birthday calendar or contact Vicki @ (340) 776-8255.

Guest Musician- We welcome CJ Grier to lead us in worship for the duration of Chanelle Schaffer's sabbatical.

Children and Worship & Sunday School Update:

Our Children and Worship Program (ages 3 through First Grade) will meet this Sunday, September 21, in the Bakery Square Worship Center. This year, our teachers will have the full hour of worship with the children. On Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of every month, we will not have Children and Worship, but will instead plan multi-generational worship in the sanctuary, and the Children and Worship Program will not meet.

The consistory approved the pastoral job description. We are posting our church profile, church history, and the pastoral position on the denominational website and STRC's website. We are reaching out to men and women who are prospects for the position and anticipate applications in the coming months.

We are still working on plans for Children's and Youth ministry for grades 2-12. They will begin in October, exact dates TBD. The HR team of STRC will be interviewing a candidate to assist us with Children's and Youth ministries this coming week.

A Message From Pastor Jeff Neevel:

Dear STRC friends,

On behalf of the entire Neevel family, I want to thank everyone who gave toward the love offering we recently received. Your generosity left its mark on our lives yet again. We are grateful and blessed for the ways you loved and supported us during our tenure there, and also in the ways you loved and supported us through our transition off island. We are still settling into life in these United States with a mix of joy and sorrow; joy in being closer to family, sorrow in being further away from our beloved STRC family.

I think of you all daily and give thanks to God each time I do for the blessings we shared all these years. Please know that you remain in my prayers. May the Lord continue to bless and keep each and every one of you. Until we meet again.

Peace,
Jeff

Consistory and Pastoral Search Committee Update:

We are planning a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 16, immediately following the worship service. At that time, we will discuss 1) STRC finances 2) The pastoral search process, and 3) the 2026 Ministry Plan and priorities.

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers: All of us worshiping together
Preaching: Pastor Nate DeWard
Music: CJ Grier, James Cobb, Andrea DeWard,
& Yolanda Thorpe
Reader: Andrea DeWard
Greeters: Melissa Borsodi, Kara Magnuson
AV/Livestream: James Anderson, James Cobb, Sinai Crenshaw &
Dave Whitter

CONTACT US

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