

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



*December 12, 2021*

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

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

# Third 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

### Introit

### Lighting of the Advent Candle *(Joy)*

Billie Hodges, Ben, Erin and Calvin Salzbrun

Today we light the third candle of the Advent wreath. This is the candle of joy.

**As the coming of Jesus, our Savior, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth.**

From the Book of Isaiah we read the words of our Lord: “But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.”

**We wait with anticipation of Christ’s joyful birth!**

### 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**

**This world needs You, Lord, come by here (3x)**

**Oh Lord, come by here**

**You’re our joy, oh Lord, come by here (3x)**

**Oh Lord, come by here**

## Prayer

\*Hymn #143

‘Joy to the World’

ANTIOCH

## Call to Confession

### Unison Prayer of Confession

God, we confess that we often ignore the Christ you sent to be among us. Darkness covers the earth and its inhabitants; but the Lord will arise upon us, and his glory will be seen upon us. We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts. The nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It’s time that we prepare for your arrival. Let the earth ring with joyful song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

Response

‘Go, Tell It on the Mountain’

TRADITIONAL

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

## Words of Assurance and Hope

Musical Offering

“A Child Is Born”

Jones

Michael Barr, trumpet

## Children’s Message

\*Hymn

‘Good Christian Friends, Rejoice’

IN DULCI JUBILO

# GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

*In dulci júbilo*

Latin and German, 14th c.

Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866

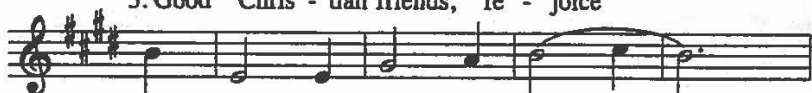
IN DULCI JUBILO

14th c. German melody

Arr. Tony Alonso



1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice
2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice
3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice



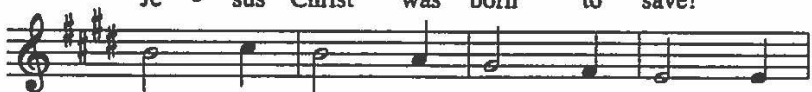
with heart and soul and voice;  
with heart and soul and voice;  
with heart and soul and voice;



O give heed to what we say:  
now you hear of end - less bliss:  
now you need not fear the grave:



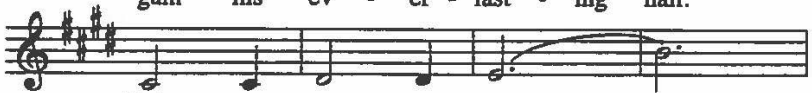
Je - sus Christ is born to - day!  
Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow, and  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and  
Calls you one and calls you all to



he is in the man - ger now.  
we are blest for ev - er - more.  
gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save!



Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save!

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

**Scripture**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

**Message**

**“Restoring Our Fortunes!”**

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.strcgiving.org](http://www.strcgiving.org).)*

**Offertory**

**“Gloria! Angels Sing His Coming”**

*Williamson*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Angels, from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth  
Gloria!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with man is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant light  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Sages, leave your contemplations  
Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great desire of nations  
Ye have seen His natal star  
Though an infant now we view Him  
He shall fill His Father's throne  
Gather all the nations to Him  
Every knee shall then bow down  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One  
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

### **\*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!**

### **Responsive Prayer & the Lord's Prayer**

Remember your church, O Christ; send your Spirit of unity, courage, and holiness.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

By shedding your blood, you have purified us; keep us ready to welcome the day of your coming.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Call from among us bearers of your presence; may they go to the far ends of the earth as tokens of your friendship and signs of your light.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Give joy to all your faithful servants; may they follow you all the days of their lives.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Nurture within us your Spirit of love; may we never close our hearts to any of our sisters and brothers.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Bring to an end the divisions between Christians; gather us in one visible communion.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Have mercy on all who suffer persecution for your name's sake; uphold them by your strong Spirit, that they may remain true to you in all their trials.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Comfort all who are suffering in their hearts or in their bodies; give them health and peace to sing of your power.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Give eternal rest to all who are dying; may the light that never sets shine upon them.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Through Jesus Christ, who is the joy of those who are happy and the comfort of those who mourn, we join the church in the family prayer together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven — Hallowed be Thy name**

**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done**

**On earth as it is in heaven**

**Give us this day our daily bread — and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us**

**And lead us not into temptation — But deliver us from evil**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

**\*Hymn # 155**

**‘Angels We Have Heard on High’**

*GLORIA*

**\*Benediction**

**Choral Response** (*please be seated*)

**‘While We Are Waiting, Come’**

*Cloninger/Cason*

While we are waiting, come

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel

While we are waiting, come

*\*Please stand.*

## **GIVING THANKS:**

### **Leading Worship Today:**

Ministers: All of us viewing together

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Neevel

Liturgist: Pastor Ben Rowe

Greeter: Kim Dennis

Advent Wreath: Billie Hodges, Ben, Erin and Calvin Salzbrun

Music: Chanelle Schaffer, Michael Barr,  
the STRC Adult Choir

Live Stream Team: James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King,  
Lucy Sutton, and Dave Whitter

Join us this evening!

The DOH requires all attendees to have proof of full COVID-19 vaccination.

# LOVE CONCERT

## THE ORCHESTRAL SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS JOY

FEATURING:



**The Virgin Islands - Puerto Rico  
Friendship Chamber Orchestra,  
José Eduardo Vanga, conductor  
with distinguished soloists:**



**Laura  
Strickling**  
soprano



**Shikima  
Jones-Sprauve**  
soprano



**Melita  
Etienne**  
mezzo-soprano



**Gylchris  
Sprauve**  
tenor



**The Lansiquot  
Sisters**  
vocal trio



**Ludence  
Romney**  
baritone



**Gerard  
Huggins**  
bass



**Sherwin  
Williams**  
saxophone



**Aboris  
de Jesus**  
piano



**The Le'Roi Simmonds  
Classical Pan Quartet**

**Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 6pm**

**The St. Thomas Reformed Church**

**Nye Gade, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands**

**FREE ADMISSION** - Freewill offering will be collected -  
Temperature checks at door - Masks must be worn - Sanctuary is open air

Concert will be streamed live from the St Thomas Reformed Church's Facebook  
page: <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasreformedchurch/>  
and re-broadcast during the Christmas season on the V.I. Government Access Channel



## **Consistory Nominating Committee:**

There is one vacant position as a deacon on the consistory for the coming year. A nominating committee has been asked to collect names of active members who are called and willing to serve to submit for consideration by the consistory. Elders and deacons, along with the minister of Word and Sacrament, comprise the consistory. Deacons are men or women who are called by God and uplifted by the church as those who are leaders in ministries of service, mercy and outreach. Elders are men or women who are called by God and uplifted by the church as those who are leaders in ministries of discipleship, worship and spiritual oversight. Please share with the members of the nominating committee your input as to whom you believe would serve our congregation well as deacon. They are needing and expecting your prayerful participation in this process!

Tina Comissiong 305-606-1238

tinacomissiong@gmail.com

Don Hancock 340-244-5452

hancock.don@gmail.com

Bob Stolz 703-303-9281

stolz\_rc@yahoo.com

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

## **Contact Information**

**Mailing Address PO Box 301769 St. Thomas, VI 00803**

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

**Email:** [mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org](mailto:mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org)

**STRC "APP" free from iTunes and Google Play**

**Like us on our Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasreformedchurch/>

**Online giving:**

[STRCGIVING.ORG](https://www.strciv.org)

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

**Wednesday Fellowship Night this week** will be a special Family Christmas Worship service. This is a special evening for the children to share the joy of being in the sanctuary. **Start time is 6:30** with light refreshments to be served after. Dress in your best to come celebrate the birth of our Savior and then take your holiday pictures. All are welcome to join us. 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 12-1 pm) please sign up today on sheet in the back of the church. For more info contact Linda Gidley: 340-690-2814.

### **Next Sunday, December 19th:**

You won't want to miss next Sunday's very special service--all of the music will be offered by our children and youth, featuring the return of the STRC Children's Choir & YouthSong, and guitarist Bonham Geller, fresh from his first semester at the Interlochen Arts Academy!

### **Lectionary Scripture Readings**

**Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55**

**An Inquirer's Class** will be forming and meeting February 27, 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](http://www.strchurch.org)

**The Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight 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 and seating capacity will be limited. The last day to sign up is **December 15th** on our website, <https://strchurch.org/silentnight> .