



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

September 14, 2025

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28; Exodus 32:7-14; Timothy 1:12-17;
Psalm 51:1-10, Psalm 14; Luke 15:1-10

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

Gathering Music

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

"I Am Not Forgotten/He Knows My Name"

CJ Grier Solo

Welcome | Ministry Updates

Call to Worship

Prayer

***Hymn #4**

"Holy, Holy, Holy" vs. 1-4

Dykes

Call to Confession -

Dramatic Reading of Mark 9:22b-24 and Hebrews 12:1-2a

Readers - Nate DeWard and Chantal Figueroa

Responsive Song of Confession #576

Mason

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" vs. 1 & 3

Readers - Nate DeWard and Chantal Figueroa

ALL (sung):

My faith looks up to Thee,

Thou Lamb of Calvary,

Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray;

take all my guilt away;

oh, let me from this day

be wholly Thine.

Leader: God, we confess to you and to one another that time after time we have entered your presence with countless prayers but with hearts that have been closed to your grace. We have lifted our hands to you in praise, but our feet have still walked in the ways of evil. We have rehearsed your commandments but have refused to see your face in the needs of our neighbor. We pray, Lord, that you forgive our lack of faith and pardon our acts of injustice.

ALL (sung):

**While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be Thou my Guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away;
nor let me ever stray
from Thee aside.**

Leader: Lord, you accept us, but we do not accept others; you forgive us, but we do not forgive those who wrong us; you love us, but we do not love our neighbors. Lord, you showed us how to carry out your mission, but we still insist on our own; you identified yourself with outcasts, the needy, and the poor, but we do not bother to find out what is happening to them; you suffered and died for the sake of all, but we do not give up our comfortable lives.

ALL (spoken):

**Grant us the healing that comes from your presence and
the cleansing of your all powerful Word, through Jesus
Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Assurance and Hope

God's Greeting

Andrea DeWard

***Mutual Greeting**

***Song of Faith "Mighty to Save"**

Fielding/Morgan

Everyone needs compassion
A love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Savior
The hope of nations

Chorus:

Savior
He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave Verse

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in
Now I surrender

Chorus:

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

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed.

All: **Calm us now, O Lord, into a quietness that heals and listens.**

Leader: God of compassion, open our wounded hearts to the balm of your Word.

All: **Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away.**

All: Amen.

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." 20 Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Rev. Andrea DeWard

...AND RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE"

Prayers of the People #664 ~ A Litany for the World

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

"Family of God"

Soloist CJ Grier

*Doxology#46

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Offertory Prayer

*Closing Song

"He Knows My Name"

Walker

I have a Maker
He formed my heart
Before even time began
My life was in his hands

Chorus:

He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And He hears me when I call Verse

I have a Father
He calls me His own
He'll never leave me
No matter where I go

Chorus

*Benediction

Announcements:

Guest Musician- We welcome CJ Grier to lead us in worship for the duration of Chanelle Schaffer's sabbatical. CJ is from Michigan, is an accomplished musician, a historian of African American culture, and well-connected in the Reformed Church in America.

Consistory Update:

The consistory has decided to enter into a 6-month lease for the Bakery Square space (concluding May 31, 2026). This is where our nursery and Children & Worship are held. We are assessing our current and future needs for space to accommodate our nursery, Children & Worship, and Children's Christian Education in light of our budget, current giving, and overall ministry priorities.

The consistory will be meeting Tuesday, September 16, and will have a congregational consistory update afterwards. STRC will have a congregational meeting in November 2025, the date is TBD.

Children and Worship & Sunday School Update:

Our Children and Worship Program (ages 3 through First Grade) will be starting this Sunday, September 14. 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 Children and Worship will not meet.

We are still working on plans for Children's and Youth ministry for grades 2-12. They will begin in October, exact dates TBD.

Next Sunday is Birthday Sunday! If your birthday month is in September please bring a dish to share as we celebrate September birthdays!

The Pastoral Search Committee "Prayer For Discernment in Pastoral Transition" requests that we keep this prayer as a daily devotion. See insert in the bulletin.

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us worshiping together
Preaching:	Rev. Andrea DeWard
Readers:	Nate DeWard and Chantal Figueroa
Music:	CJ Grier
Greeters:	Gordon Chisholm and Amy Wagner
AV/Livestream:	James Anderson, Luke Berry, James Cobb, Sinai Crenshaw & Dave Whitter

CONTACT US

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