



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

May 21, 2023

10:00 AM Service

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

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

Gathering Music

Greeting | Ministry Opportunities

Introit "A Christian's Daily Prayer"

Merker/Kauflin

As morning dawns and day awakes
To You I bring my need
O Gracious God, my source of strength
In You I live and breathe
Each hour is Yours, by Wisdom planned
Each deed empower'd by sovereign hands
Renew my spirit, help me stand
Be glorified today

As day unfolds, I seek Your will
In all of life's demands
And though the tempter tries me still
I cling to Your commands
Let every effort of my life
Display the matchless worth of Christ
Make me a living sacrifice
Be glorified today

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth!

AMEN!

Praise God, who reigns over all.

Praise the One who made heaven and earth, the whole universe.

Praise God, whose reign is not of this world.

Praise the One who commanded us to love one another and laid down his life for us.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Prayer



1. Let's walk to-gether for a while and
2. Let's talk to-gether of a time when
3. Let's dream to-gether of the day when

ask where we be - gin to build a world where
we will share a feast, where pride and pow - er
earth and heaven are one, a ci - ty built of

love can grow and hope can en - ter in, to be the hands of
kneel to serve the lone - ly and the least, and joy will set the
love and light, the new Je - ru - sa - lem, where our mour - ing turns to

heal - ing and to plant the seeds of peace, Sing - ing
ta - ble as we join our hands to pray, Sing - ing
danc - ing, ev - ery crea - ture lifts its voice! Cry - ing

wel - come, welcome to this place. You're in - vit - ed to come and know

God's grace. All are wel - come the love of God to share 'cause

all of us are wel - come here; all are welcome in this place.

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, please show us ourselves as you see us. Give us insight into the fractured Church at the present time that we may be capable of genuine repentance and renewal. Convict us of all sins of indifference, prejudice, self righteousness, enmity or sectarian egotism. If we need gentle rebuke, please do that for us. If we need confronting and breaking down, then please do that for us. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy....

Response	'Kyrie'	Garnass-Holmes
Kyrie eleison		Lord, have mercy
Christe eleison		Jesus, have mercy
Kyrie eleison		Lord, have mercy
Grant to us your peace, Lord		Grant to us your peace, Lord

Words of Assurance and How We Are Called to Live

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Now live as a forgiven people, one in the Spirit of Christ.

Amen.

Choral Response	"Hear Our Prayer"	Cooper/Judd
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Children's Message & Recognition of Graduates

*Hymn	'This is My Commandment'	Traditional
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This is my commandment that you love one another

That your joy may be full...

(pray for, forgive, love)

Scripture: John 17:1-11

Sermon:	"Cosmic Crickets!"	Pastor Jeff
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"...AND RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE..."

Offering

We give our gifts, tithes and offerings as an expression of gratitude for all of God' blessings. Online giving is available at www.strchurch.org/give
Children are dismissed to their Sunday School classes at this time.

Offertory

"You Will Be Found"

Pasek/Paul

Nashibo Benjamin & Grace King

Have you ever felt like nobody was there?
Have you ever felt forgotten in the middle of nowhere?
Have you ever felt like you could disappear?
Like you could fall, and no one would hear?

Well, let that lonely feeling wash away
Maybe there's a reason to believe you'll be okay
Cause when you don't feel strong enough to stand
You can reach, reach out your hand
And oh, someone will come running
And I know, they'll take you home

Even when the dark comes crashing through
When you need a friend to carry you
And when you're broken on the ground
You will be found
So let the sun come streaming in
Cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again
Lift your head and look around
You will be found

There's a place where we don't have to feel unknown
And every time that you call out
You're a little less alone
If you only say the word
From across the silence your voice is heard

Out of the shadows
The morning is breaking
And all is new, all is new
It's filling up the empty
And suddenly I see that
All is new, all is new

***Doxology**

***Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

***Hymn 'Eternal Christ, Who, Kneeling'**

AURELIA

Eternal Christ, who, kneeling
When earthly tasks were done
Turned unto God appealing
That they may all be one
We thank you for your vision
Of unity untorn
Of faith without division
With which your church was born

But we have often slighted
The ties designed to hold
Your followers united
Within one common fold
Writ dark on history's pages
We see, O Lord, with shame
The strife which through the ages
Has marred your church's name

Accept our deep contrition
For all our sundering ways
Which still disrupt your mission
Which mock our words of praise
Lord, may your Spirit guide us
That we may find, beyond
The things which still divide us
Love's all-embracing bond

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Announcements: "Prayer Pieces"

In this morning's bulletin, you will find a blank jigsaw puzzle piece. During the time of silent prayer, please write down a prayer request, either for yourself or for someone you know in need of prayer. The pieces will be collected during the closing hymn to be assembled and prayed over throughout the coming week.

Congratulations to our 2023 High School graduates and XYG

"Live Like Ty" scholarship recipients:

Lindsay Barr, Nashibo Benjamin, Madelyn Benware, Gabriel Christian Natalia Figueroa, Bonham Geller, Joaquin Hawkes, Kayla Jennings

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

-Galatians 3:28

The Reformed Church in America (RCA) marks today as Women in Ministry Sunday. The RCA believes women are called to use their gifts at every level of church leadership. We are working to become a place where all women are equipped and empowered to fully exercise their gifts in the life, ministry, mission, and offices of the church. We (STRC) thank God for the talents and gifts of all the women who serve our church teaching, greeting, offering hospitality, prayers and gifts to the glory of God.

Ministry staff:

Chanelle Schaffer – Minister of Music & Arts

Vicky Gomez-Christian – Operations Administrator

Vicki Whitter – Administrative Assistant

Consistory:

Rev. Rebecca Broom - elder

Cathy Clements - deacon

Billie Hodges - elder

Amber Knight - elder

Also serving today: Chantal Figueroa - elder

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us worshipping together
Preaching:	Jeff Neevel
Liturgist:	Chanelle Schaffer
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Nashibo Benjamin, Grace King and Adult Choir
AV/Livestream:	James Anderson, Andrea King, James Cobb, Dave Whitter

NEXT STEPS

1. START HERE - Fill out our online connect card at www.strchurch.org/im-new

2. SIGN UP TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP www.strchurch.org/next-steps

3. STAY IN THE KNOW

- You will notice some changes to our online giving. Unfortunately the company we were using to process online giving no longer works in the USVI. Therefore, we apologize for any inconvenience as we transition to a new company to process online gifts. If you have any questions or need support, please reach out to the main office and we will assist you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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