



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

December 4, 2022

10:00am Service

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

Second Sunday of Advent

Psalm 17:1-9; 98; 145:1-5, 17-21; Job 19:23-27a; 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

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

Gathering Music

Greeting and Ministry Announcements

Introit

"Advent Hymn"

Nockels

Grace King

Christ, whose glory fills the skies
Christ, the everlasting light
Son of righteousness, arise
And triumph o'er these chains of mine

Come, thou long awaited One
In the fullness of Your love
And loose this heart bound up by shame
And I will never be the same

So here I wait in hope of You
All my soul's longing through and through
Dayspring from on high be near
And Daystar in my heart appear

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Until Your love in me is born
And joyless is the evening song
Until Emmanuel has come

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Lighting the Advent Wreath – Grace King (Skip & Andrea)

Today we relight the candle of **PEACE**.

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace. The prophet Isaiah wrote:

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

***Hymn “Now Bless the God of Israel” FOREST GREEN**

(Lyrics and sheet music can be found in the bulletin insert)

Call to Confession | Unison Prayer of Confession

Sovereign God, we are told that your kingdom has come near. We confess this confuses us, for we all too rarely perceive it. We are dismayed at the sin we see in the world and we tremble to name the sin that dwells in our hearts. We are told to repent, yet sometimes we lack even the desire to change. Forgive us, O God. Have mercy on us and transform us, that we may with joy look forward to your coming. Draw us into your silent, loving, merciful grace, in the name of Jesus.

Response “Come, O Redeemer, Come” Ortega

(Lyrics and sheet music can be found in the bulletin insert)

Words of Assurance and Hope

Anthem “Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming” arr. Nix

Hymn of Offering #136 v. 1,3,4 PLEADING SAVIOR

“Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming”

A Celebration of Communion

Communion liturgy used with permission: (c) Michelle L. Torigian, 2019.

May you know that the God of comfort is with you.

And may you see the God of hope with you.

Open wide our anxious hearts!

We open them to God's peace.

Let us give thanks and share our joy.

In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.

Institution

Communion is Served

(All who desire to receive the Lord's Supper are invited forward.

Beginning with the back pews, come forward using the side aisles, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and return to your seat using the center aisle. Single serve cups are also available.)

Music During Communion

Dengler

"Christmas Sanctus"

See the weary pair

Nestled in a stable bare

Gazing at their baby boy

Filled with love and praise

Earth and heaven sing

Worshipping the new born King

Who has come to change the world

Join in songs of praise:

Holy, holy, holy is the blessed one
Heav'n and earth are filled with your glory
Holy, holy, holy is the promised Son
Glory be to God in the highest!

See the shepherds run
Searching for God's precious Son
Kneeling at his manger bed
Filled with love and praise
Ev'ry knee will bow
Ev'ry tongue confessing now
Jesus Christ is Lord of all
Join in songs of praise

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

Scripture: Romans 15:4-13

Message: "A Little Bit of Love Goes a Pretty Long Way"

-Pastor Ben Rowe

—Teachers and students are dismissed to Christian Formation classes following the sermon—

...AND RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE..."

Hymn of Response #132 v. 1 & 2

Wren/Fogg

"When God is a Child"

Preparing to Give

Christmas Eve Offering 2022 — CSVI

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord's Prayer

Malotte

(The congregation is invited to stand, join hands and sing)

*Benediction

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ministers: | All of us viewing together |
| Preaching: | Pastor Jeff Neevel |
| Liturgist: | Pastor Ben Rowe |
| Advent Reading: | Grace, Skip and Andrea King |
| Music: | Chanelle Schaffer, Grace King, Adult Choir |
| AV Team: | James Anderson, James Cobb, Dave Whitter, |



CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Jeffrey Neevel - | Pastor of Congregational Engagement pastorjeff@strchurch.org |
| Ben Rowe - | Pastor of Congregational Formation pastorben@strchurch.org |
| Chanelle Schaffer - | Minister of Music and Arts music@stthomasreformedchurch.org |
| Vicky Gomez-Christian- | Retreat Center Coordinator retreat@stthomasreformedchurch.org |

The St. Thomas Reformed Church | P.O. Box 301769 | St. Thomas, VI 00803
mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org

NEXT STEPS

1. CONSISTORY CALL TO SERVE! There are two vacant elder positions on consistory for the coming year. A nominating committee (*one consistory member whose term is complete, two at-large STRC members and the Pastor/s*) have been asked to collect names of active members who may feel called to serve. Elders and deacons, along with the minister of Word and Sacrament, comprise the consistory. 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 any member of the nominating committee your input as to whom you believe would serve our congregation well as an elder.

—Chantal Figueroa - chantalfig@gmail.com,

—CJ Oleari - cjoleari@yahoo.com

—Michael Weinzettle - jmweinzettle@yahoo.com

2. MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Annual Women's Christmas Party** — will be held at the home of Mike and Chris Jordan on **Saturday, December 10th at 4 p.m.** Volunteers are needed--please Email CJ Oleari (cjoleari@yahoo.com) for details.
- **Annual Christmas Pageant** — '*Journey to Bethlehem*', an intergenerational re-telling of the Christmas story returns this year on **Sunday, December 18th!** The Christmas Pageant is always a highlight of the Advent season--plan to arrive early for the best seats!
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** — **Saturday, December 24, 7pm.** This year's Christmas Eve Offering 2022 will benefit Cancer Support VI. www.cancersupportvi.com Today we welcome CSVI Director Barb Michaud and (via video) Jessica Henderson.
- **Christmas Day Acoustic Carol Service** — **Sunday, December 25, 10am**

3. GET INVOLVED

- **The Garage Men's Bible Study** — Continues this Sunday with Men of the Bible following worship. Contact Ty Troutman tptroum@icloud.com with any questions.
- **Join the STRC Christmas Choir!** — If you love Christmas music, why not join the Christmas Choir! All are welcome to participate in the full schedule of rehearsals, services, and special events. No previous experience is necessary--the only requirement is the ability to match pitch and follow direction. If you can't make a full-time commitment--that's fine! If you're interested, please contact Chanelle at music@stthomasreformedchurch.org

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Noël! Hope is born!

The VI-PR Friendship Chamber Orchestra



Featuring



Gylchris Sprauve
music director



Chanelle Schaffer
soprano



Laura Dixon Strickling
soprano



She'Coy Jones
saxophone

+ **Majestik Estrada-Petersen** soprano | **Allegra Christopher** contralto | **Ryswick Felix** baritone
Andrew Jackson bass | **Mōi Kin Senu Stem** | **Aboris de Jesus** piano | **Angels of Steel** | **Partners for Strings**

Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 6:30pm
The St. Thomas Reformed Church

Krystal & Nye Gade
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

ADMISSION FREE, SUGGESTED DONATION: \$20