



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

September 8, 2024

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; Isaiah 35:4-7a;
Psalm 146; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

...“WE GATHER IN GOD’S PRESENCE...”

Gathering Music

Greeting | Ministry Opportunities - *Dave Whitter, Elder VP*

Call to Worship (from Psalm 47)

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

AMEN!

We gather together in the name of the One who bids us come.

We gather together to hear the words of the One who is Love.

We gather together to sing praises of the One who teaches peace.

Come, let us worship!

Prayer

***Hymn #2** ‘Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee’ HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee
Opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive our fear and doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day

All thy works with joy surround thee
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays
Stars and angels sing around thee

Center of unbroken praise
Field and forest, vale and mountain
Flowery meadow, flashing sea
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in thee

Thou art giving and forgiving
Ever blessing, ever blest
Well-spring of the joy of living
Ocean depth of happy rest
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother
All who live in love are thine
Teach us how to love each other
Lift us to the joy divine

Mortals, join the happy chorus
Stars of morning, take your part
Love divine is reigning o'er us
Binding those of tender heart
Ever singing, move we onward
Victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music lifts us sunward
In the triumph song of life

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response #306 'Hear Our Prayer, O Lord'

Whelpton

Hear our prayer, O Lord
Hear our prayer, O Lord
Incline Thine ear to us
And grant us Thy peace
Amen

Words of Assurance and How We Are Called to Live

(inspired by Psalm 145: 8-9, 13-14)

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. Hear the word of the Lord in Jesus: 'Your sins are forgiven!'
Thanks be to God!

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

Children's Message

*Hymn 'On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry' HAMBURG

(Teachers and students are dismissed to faith formation classes)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh
Awake and harken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings

Then cleansed be every life from sin
Make straight the way for God within
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there

We hail you as our Savior, Lord
Our refuge and our great reward
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore
And make us rise, to fall no more
O, let your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine

Scripture: Matthew 11:2-19

Sermon: "Is Christianity Worth Saving?"
Rev. Taylor Holbrook

...AND RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE...

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 "Prelude no. 1 in F# minor" Ponce
James Anderson, guitar

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn #464 'God of Grace and God of Glory' v 1, 3-5**
CWM RHONDDA

God of grace and God of glory
On thy people pour thy power
Crown thine ancient church's story
Bring its bud to glorious flower
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour
For the facing of this hour

Cure thy children's warring madness
Bend our pride to thy control
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness
Rich in things and poor in soul
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss thy righteous goal
Lest we miss thy righteous goal

Set our feet on lofty places
Fill our lives that we may be
Strengthened with all Christ-like graces
Pledged to set all captives free
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we fail our call from thee
Lest we fail our call from thee

Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore
Let the search for thy salvation
Be our glory evermore
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Serving thee whom we adore
Serving thee whom we adore

***Benediction**

Announcements: This Sunday we welcome Rev. Taylor Holbrook back to the pulpit for another moving message. Rev. Holbrook is a retired 3rd-generation RCA pastor. His wife Cathleen is the daughter and granddaughter of RCA pastors. He currently is the President of the Dutchess County (NY) Interfaith Council and Chair of the local CROP Walk. CROP Walk raises funds through Church World Service to address hunger and justice issues locally, nationally and around the world. Find out more about his 2024 walk at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/taylor-holbrook>

Children's Choir resumes on Sunday, September 22nd!

The Children's Choir sings in worship on a monthly basis; we rehearse on Sunday mornings after worship from 11:30 to noon. This is a great opportunity for your child/children to learn about music and healthy vocal technique, and to gain experience working in an ensemble & performing in front of others. It also provides a firm theological foundation for faith formation; songs are based in Scripture, and focus on God's love. All children ages 4 through 12 are welcome to attend--for more information, contact Channele: music@stthomasreformedchurch.org

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us worshiping together
Preaching:	Rev. Taylor Holbrook
Organ:	Courtney Reese
Singers:	Diana Ray, Bill and Lori Thompson
Guitar:	James Anderson
AV/Livestream:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Chase Rosenthal, and 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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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