

# *Amazing Grace*

## Galatians 3:23-25

historic faith. present love. future hope.

**We Welcome One and All**

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

June 22, 2025

**10:00 am**

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

[www.strchurch.org](http://www.strchurch.org)



## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7) 8-15a; Psalm 22:19-28, Psalm 42 & 43;  
Isaiah 65:1-9; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

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

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

### Greeting | Ministry Updates

**Introit**    **"We Are One in the Savior's Love"**    Williams/Glover

### Call to Worship

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

**Amen!**

As the wild deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you,  
O God.

**My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

We have come together to strengthen our love and our worship of  
the living God.

**Our corporate worship is a sharing of faith and expectation.**

We also bring our own unique and private joys, anxieties,  
memories and hopes.

**Our worship includes secrets known to God alone.**

We gather with a common status as the children of one loving God.

**Our worship unites a scattered family.**

We offer our varied gifts and resources to the one common Savior.

**Our worship is a fellowship in the one body of Christ.**

### Prayer

**\*Hymn 'God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises'**    HYMN TO JOY

God, we sing your glorious praises

As we tell your awesome deeds

You have fashioned all creation

And you meet each creature's needs

We rejoice in how your people

Tasted your great faithfulness

Graced through every generation

We your mighty acts profess

We remember, God, your covenant,  
Which extends from heaven to earth  
How Christ's death and resurrection  
Conquers sin, renews our birth  
Thank you for this Gospel message  
Which inspires your church to preach  
Grace to every generation  
In our deeds and in our speech

Fueled by power from your Spirit  
We commit ourselves anew  
To be faithful to your gospel  
In the daily work we do  
We will shout your glorious praises  
Telling all who have not heard  
Grace for every generation  
Is embodied in your Word

Lord, we offer you our worship  
As we celebrate your grace  
Which you shower on your people  
Gathered here and everywhere  
Blessed by water, Word, and table  
We, your church, now pledge to share  
Grace through every generation  
In our witness, work, and prayer

## **Call to Confession | Unison Prayer of Confession**

Most faithful God, we admit to you and to each other that our deeds rarely match our good intentions, nor do our intentions measure up to our creeds. We have named you as Abba, Father, yet we do not live like your gracious children. We have named Christ as Savior, but have not consistently lived like the redeemed. We have named you the ever-present Holy Spirit, but often we live as though you were at the other end of the universe. Please continue to have mercy on us. Forgive us from our all dallying or rebelling. Recall us to our true creeds so that from the depths of our being we may be inspired to love and serve you. In Jesus' name...

## Response

## 'Forgive Our Sins'

Herklot/Schaffer

For - give our sins, as we for - give, You taught us, Lord, to pray; but  
You a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and bid re - sent - ment cease; then,  
bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread Your peace.

## Words of Assurance and Hope

God can be utterly trusted. Do not be afraid. If God through Christ says that your sins are forgiven, then they are forgiven!  
The saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you all.

### **And also with you.**

Believe the good news that, in Christ, our sins are forgiven, and now live in peace.

**Amen!**

## Solo

## "Love Never Fails You"

Heath/Cates

James Anderson

Love is not proud, love does not boast  
Love, after all, matters the most  
Love does not run, love does not hide  
Love does not keep locked inside  
Love is a river that flows through  
And love never fails you  
Love will sustain, love will provide  
Love will not cease at the end of time  
And love will protect, love always hopes

And love still believes when you don't  
Love is the arms that are holding you  
Love never fails you  
When my heart won't make a sound  
When I can't turn back around  
When the sky is falling down  
Nothing is greater than this  
'Cause love is right here, love is alive  
Love is the Way, the Truth, the Life  
Love is the river that flows through  
Love is the arms that are holding you  
And love is the place you will fly to  
Love never fails you

## ...TO HEAR GOD'S WORDS...

### Children's Message

#### **\*Hymn 'Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers'** HOLY MANNA

Thank our God for sisters, brothers  
One by grace in harmony  
Joining heart to heart with others  
Making strong community  
With the cross of Christ our standard  
Let us sing as with one voice  
Glory, glory, yours the promise  
We who are the church rejoice

Praise to God for congregations  
Keeping faith with Christ as guide  
Many tongues of many nations  
Song and service unified  
Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol  
When our song is raised as one  
Glory, glory, yours the power  
As in heaven, your will be done





**Activity Time** – Children (ages 4-10) are invited to join Deb Merrill in the Undercroft after the children's message for various guided activities.

**Parents, please come pick up your children immediately after worship concludes.**

**Children's Choir is on hiatus until the fall;** thank you, children, for ministering to us throughout the church year, and for bringing us joy all year 'round!

**NEXT Sunday – We wish a fond “fare-thee-well” to Pastor Jeff** and welcome Guest Preacher: Pastor Jeff Gargano, Senior Pastor of the Reformed Churches of the Tarrytowns (NY) and former pastor at STRC (1995-2009).

### **Support the Arts!**

If you enjoyed Pastor Jeff's Farewell Concert, 'A Legacy of Praise', and would like to receive information about similar events and what's going on in the St. Thomas Arts & Entertainment community in general, Street Level VI has all the info you need! Run by Priscilla Lynn, Street Level VI is a great way to stay in the loop and find out about upcoming events. More information is available at [streetlevelvi.com](http://streetlevelvi.com) and on their FaceBook page, or add your name and email to the sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary to join.

**“Clean Up, Plant Up!”** On Friday June 27 from 8:00-10:30 AM a clean up is scheduled for the portion of Dronningens Gade Stepstreet KQ from the top of the 99 steps down to Bunker Hill. Everyone should bring their own tools, water, gloves, etc. If you have plants to donate, bring those, too, especially native plants, such as the native Frangipani (narrow leaves), Tyre palm, Cocoplum and any native ground cover. There is a section on the Stepstreet where the soil is getting washed over the retaining wall that needs to be dug out, so if you are strong and good with a shovel, we especially need your help! Any questions, please see Anna Monica Villa or Rebecca Broom. Thank you!

**For those Women interested in joining us for a Fun Summer Weekly Bible Study of :** She is Called ~ Women of The Bible Study Series Part 1 & Part 2 . Please sign up or for more information please contact - Sharee Winslow at [shareewinslow@icloud.com](mailto:shareewinslow@icloud.com).

**Summer Camp 2025 "Bread of Life - Feed Us With Your Love!"** begins at Magens Bay Monday, June 30!

**Highlights from last Tuesday's Consistory meeting:**

- Vicky Christian was granted a leave of absence** (June 21-August 31) at attend to family medical needs in the states.
- Money was allocated for the purchase of equipment needed to continue our livestream.**
- The Deacons will meet to evaluate our benevolence giving for 2025**
- Pastor Jeff shared some thoughts about moving forward in ministry:** embracing change, supporting Pastor Nate as interim, doing the hard work of discernment and prayer, engaging new members and leaders, and expressing gratitude for the church and consistory's support which allowed him to attend to the needs of the flock uninhibited by "worldly concerns".

**Leading Worship Today:**

<b>Ministers:</b>	All of us worshiping together
<b>Preaching:</b>	Pastor Jeffrey Neevel
<b>Liturgist:</b>	Nate DeWard
<b>Music:</b>	Chanelle Schaffer, James Anderson and the Adult Choir
<b>Greeters:</b>	The Plummer Family
<b>AV/Livestream:</b>	James Anderson, Luke Berry, James Cobb, Trey Thompson & Dave Whitter

Jeffrey Neevel -	Senior Pastor <a href="mailto:pastorjeff@strchurch.org">pastorjeff@strchurch.org</a>
Nate DeWard	Interim Pastor <a href="mailto:nate@strchurch.org">nate@strchurch.org</a>
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