



# St. Thomas Reformed Church

*Founded 1660*

August 19, 2018

*All are Welcome  
In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ*

## A Service of Baccalaureate for My Brother's Workshop Graduates

**“We Gather In God’s Presence...”**

**Prelude**      Rising Stars

### **Greeting**

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

### **Call to Worship**

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

**Amen!**

### **Prayer**

**\*Hymn # 2**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

### **Litany of Call (*inspired by Isaiah 6:8*)**

Life looms ahead of us, huge and uncertain;  
In the confusion we must listen for the voice of God.  
Who can hear the voice of God calling?

**Here I am, send me!**

The expectations of our friends feel so overwhelming;  
Luring us to make choices for our own comfort.  
Who can focus on the call to serve God?

**Here I am, send me!**

Hunger, greed, hopelessness prevail in our world;  
Making it difficult to believe that God still dances.  
Who can speak good news in the face of evil?

**Here I am, send me!**

Our voice seems so small against the misery we hear;  
Wars and famines and abuse seem to dominate.  
Who can be heard above the crying?

**Here I am, send me!**

The world is waiting to hear the promise of God;  
A life of justice, peace and love for all of God's children.  
Who will choose this life with God?

**Here I am, send me!**

### **\*The Lord's Prayer**

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

### **\*Benediction**

*May the Lord bless you and keep you.*

*May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you*

*May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.*

### **\*Postlude**

*\*All are invited to a reception in our Kelbert Pavilion and MBW café next door. The graduation ceremony will begin in 30 minutes.*

## **GIVING THANKS:**

### **Leading Worship Today:**

Ministers:	All the people of the church
Preaching:	Pastor Jeffrey Neevel
Liturgist:	Jamari Lucien and Tumari Williams
Music:	Courtney Reese, Penny Woods and the Rising Stars
Greeters:	Charmaine and Devonte Duncan
Ushers:	Dr. Adam Flowers, Isis Charles, Michelle Laudat, Deshoj Hanley, Jalila Thomas
Audio:	Steve Marsella and Henry Ong

**Today we extend a warm welcome** to the recent graduates of My Brother's Workshop and we celebrate their accomplishments with this service of Baccalaureate. **Graduation exercises** will begin after a 30-minute reception with guest speaker Julian Jackson and music by the Rising Stars. All are invited! Thank you to The Rising Stars, soloist Penny Woods and Courtney Reese for providing the music this morning.

### **Congratulations to the MBW 2018 Graduating Class:**

**Jashawn Bailey  
Bert Donadelle  
Niko Espirit  
Katina Evans  
Keia Henry  
Selassie Henry**

**Albernique Hodge  
DaNeil Joseph  
Jamari Lucien  
Jamoï Mulraine  
Ki-Janna Parker  
Reneecia Simon**

**Jovon Smith  
Sergue Soto  
Sergio Soto  
Krishna Sooknanan  
Tyreke Turnbull  
Tumari Williams**

**STRC is pleased** to present the first annual **MBW graduate "Love Your Neighbor" award**. This year's recipient will be announced during the graduation program.

St Thomas Reformed Church  
**"Love Your Neighbor" Award**  
presented to  
TBA

for outstanding character and exemplary community service

*Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"* – Mark 12:30-31

## Words of Assurance and Hope

## Children’s Message

\*Hymn # 595

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

*(Children under the age of 10 are excused to Activity time.)***...To Hear God’s Word...**

Scripture

Ephesians 5:15-20

P 1067

Message

“Making the Most of Your Time!”

**...And Respond with Gratitude...**

Offering

Offertory:

“Total Praise ”

*Penny Woods and the Rising Stars***Prayer for Graduates (responsive)**

The Lord Almighty called the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you";

**We thank you, Creator God, for the lives of these students, each known and loved even before they were born. We praise you that they were consecrated by you to purposes we could not imagine so many years ago.**

God created all people in the image of the Divine, in the image of God women and men were made by God's own hand.

**We recognize these students as your children, bearing your image. Their compassion and their creativity mark them as men and women of God, sharing their Creator's likeness.**

The philosopher reminds us that for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

**We thank you that you have brought us to this day of rejoicing: a day to remember their journey, a day to pause and look both to the past and to the future.**

Mordecai saw God's potential in his adopted daughter and told her, "Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

**We know that you have great things in store for each student. We cannot imagine the futures to which you are calling them, but we are confident in your ability to use every gift in your own time and for the purposes of your Kingdom.**

Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?"

**From this day forward, loving Lord, we ask that you strengthen each one here to follow you, in whatever path may best serve you. Guide these men and women as they seek to find their lives by losing them in you.**

Merciful and gracious God, hear our prayers for these your children, and may this time of remembrance be a blessing to each one here. All this we pray in the name of the Christ, our hope and our Savior. Amen.

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## **Rising Stars Participating Members**

Eltino S. Pickering, Instructor  
Tejai Harrigan, Tenor Bass  
Jaylon Hodge, Tenor Bass  
José Bougouneau, Tenor  
Jónelle Hodge, Tenor  
Christian Celestine, Double Tenor  
Richard Cruse, Jr; Double Second  
Tajahni Harrigan, Guitar  
Jahziah Hodge, Guitar  
Jaren Hodge, Percussion  
Kamal Tyson, Percussion