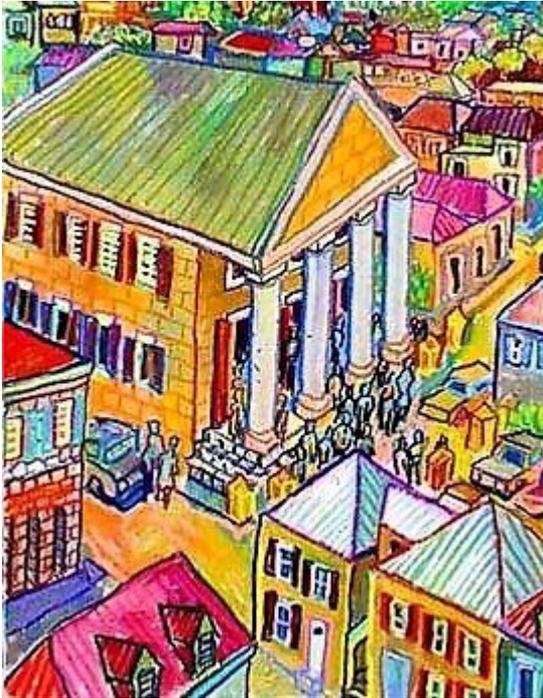


St. Thomas Reformed Church



St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands
Founded 1660

September 16, 2018

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

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

The liturgical color today is green representing the growth and mission of the Church!

“ We Gather In God’s Presence...”

Prelude Music

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

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Call to Worship

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

Amen!

Today we sabbath, we take rest in the Lord our God.

We put aside productivity to wonder and worship.

Today we sabbath, to do a different kind of work.

We have gathered to do liturgy, the work of the people.

Today we sabbath, for the world does not revolve around us.

We revolve around God and God’s goodness and grace.

Come, let us worship God!

Prayer

*Hymn # 277

‘Christians, We Have Met to Worship’

HOLY MANNA

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of mercy and steadfast love, You gave us our tongues that we may speak words of love, wisdom, and grace. But often our tongues are the vehicles of other things: instead of love, hatred; instead of wisdom, foolishness; instead of grace, rage. Like a small fire that sets a forest ablaze, too often a word can set forth a flood of fear and anger. Help us use our tongues to start things like kindness, compassion, and courage. Forgive us our sins, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray...

Response

‘Lord, Speak to Me’

CANONBURY

See page 4. Verses 1 & 3

Words of Assurance and Hope

Children’s Message

***Hymn # 589**

‘Lord, I Want to Be a Christian’
(Children age 6 and under are excused to Activity time.)

Spiritual

...To Hear God’s Word...

Scripture

James 3:1-12

P 1101

Message

“Speaking Life!”

...And Respond with Gratitude

Offering

Offertory

“Speak Life”

McKeehan/Moore

Some days, life feels perfect.
Other days it just ain't workin'.
The good, the bad, the right, the wrong
And everything in between.
Though it's crazy, amazing
We can turn a heart through the words
we say.
Mountains crumble with every syllable.
Hope can live or die

Some days the tongue gets twisted;
Other days my thoughts just fall apart.
I do, I don't, I will, I won't,
It's like I'm drowning in the deep.
Well, it's crazy to imagine,
Words from our lips as the arms of
compassion,
Mountains crumble with every syllable.
Hope can live or die.

So speak life, speak life.
To the deadest darkest night.
Speak life, speak life.
When the sun won't shine and you don't
know why.
Look into the eyes of the broken-hearted;
Watch them come alive as soon as you
speak hope,
You speak love, you speak...
You speak life.

Lift your head a little higher,
Spread the love like fire,
Hope will fall like rain,
When you speak life with the words you
say.
Raise your thoughts a little higher,
Use your words to inspire,
Joy will fall like rain,
When you speak life with the things you
say.

***Doxology**

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

***Hymn**

‘Wonderful Words of Life’
See page 5

Bliss

***Benediction**

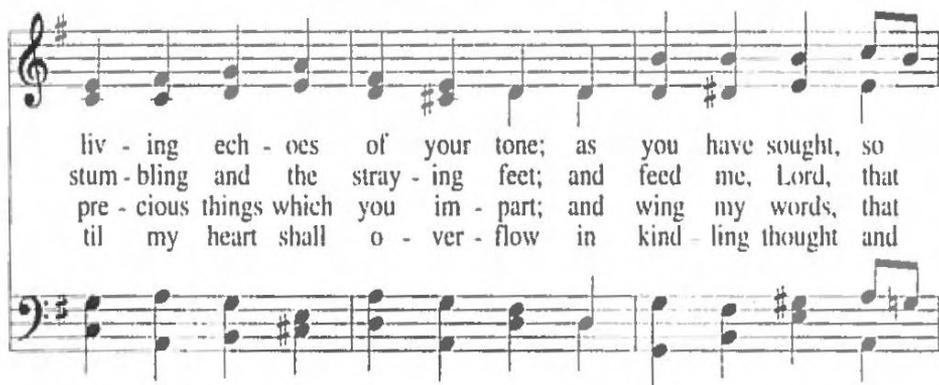
...Depart in peace



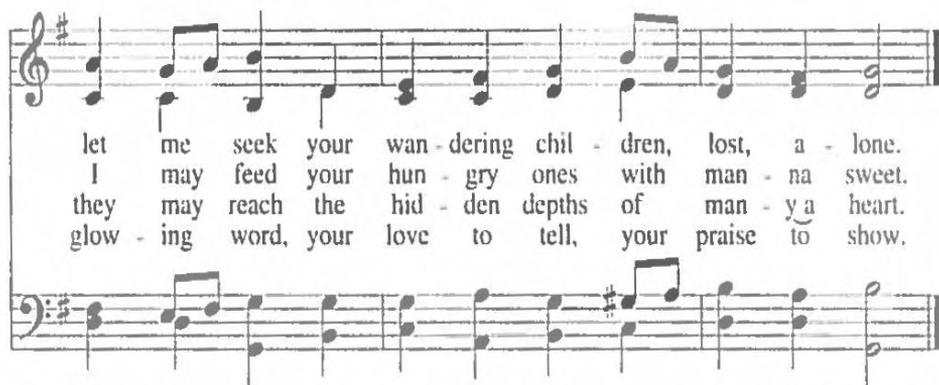
Lord, Speak to Me



1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the
 4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 stum - bling and the stray - ing feet; and feed me, Lord, that
 pre - cious things which you im - part; and wing my words, that
 til my heart shall o - ver - flow in kind - ling thought and



let me seek your wan - dering chil - dren, lost, a - lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - ya heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show,

Wonderful Words of Life

1. Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, Won - der - ful words of Life;
 2. Christ, the bless - ed One, gives to all Won - der - ful words of Life;
 3. Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call, Won - der - ful words of Life.

Let me more of their beau - ty see, Won - der - ful words of Life.
 Sin - ner, list to the lov - ing call, Won - der - ful words of Life.
 Of - fer par - don and peace to all, Won - der - ful words of Life.

Words of life and beau - ty, Teach me faith and du - ty:
 All so free - ly giv - en, Woo - ling us to Heav - en:
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, Sanc - ti - fy for - ev - er:

Refrain

1. Beau-ti-ful words, won-der-ful words, Won-der-ful words of Life. — Life.
 2.

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All the people of the church
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Liturgist:	Amber Knight
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer and Noel Regalado
Greeters:	Don, Erica and Kendall Hebert
Head Ushers:	Dr. Adam Flowers and Joel Comissiong
Audio:	Steve Marsella and Henry Ong

A warm welcome to our visitors. You are invited to complete the visitor registration forms at the end of the pew or on the back table.

Today Pastor Jeff continues a **5-week sermon series** focusing on the book of James and the living out of the St. Thomas Reformed church's Vision, Values and Mission.

Activity Time will continue for a few more weeks. Volunteers are needed for each Sunday to spend some quality, faith-filled fun time with the children of our church (*age 6 and under*) during worship. Lesson plans and activities are already planned and will be sent to you! **Thank you** to our Activity Time leader for today, Deborah Merrill along with Kya and Dakota.

A Diabetes Support Group will begin meeting on Wednesday, October 3, at 5:00 in the Community Health Conference Room. This group will offer information about diet and nutrition, testing and insulin, exercise, and stress reduction with time for discussion and answering questions. Please see Mary Howe.

STRC Church APP available! Includes the morning bulletin and scripture passages. Download free and follow STRC on your smartphone! Also, send your prayer requests directly to Pastor Jeff!

Please use the bathrooms in the Bakery Square building.

Salvation Army Helpers: Joe Tulis, Linda Gidley, and Mac Davis

CALENDAR

TODAY	9:00 - 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m. 11:10 a.m. - noon	Café in the Pavilion Sunday Worship Activity Time Children's Choir Rehearsal (MR)
Tues., Sept 18	11:30 - 1:00 p.m. 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Salvation Army Lunch Worship Planning Team Meeting (MR)
Thurs., Sept 20	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal (MR)
Sat., Sept 22	11:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Bethlehem House Lunch
Sun., Sept 23	9:00 - 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m.	Café in the Pavilion Sunday Worship Activity Time and Senior High Session

Next Week's Lectionary Scripture Readings

- ◆ Proverbs 31:10-31
- ◆ Psalm 1
- ◆ Jeremiah 11:18-20
- ◆ Psalm 54
- ◆ James 3:13-4:3, 7-8
- ◆ Mark 9:30-37

Prison Ministry– If you would like to be involved in our prison ministry, visiting and leading Bible studies every Monday night at 6pm in the local jail, please contact Gabriel Villegas (gjvillegas@yahoo.com) or Dave Haddow (davidjhaddow@yahoo.com).

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK*

- ◆ To all those affected by hurricanes and other natural disasters
- ◆ Long Path After-school program and all the kids who attend
- ◆ Hannah Upp missing since Irmaria (*please check out a new GoFundMe page created to assist in the search for Hannah*)

<https://www.gofundme.com/findhannahupp>

- ◆ Benjamin Salas
- ◆ Prison Ministry

*If you would like prayers added to our Sunday prayer list please contact Pastor Jeff at mail@stthomsreformedchurch.org or call the church office at 340-776-8255.

Music and Arts Updates

YOU are Invited... *STRC's Choirs Want YOU!*

Rehearsals for the Children's Choir/Adult Choir continue this week, and ALL are welcome to attend! The **Children's Choir** sings in worship on a monthly basis; their performances are always highlights of the service. We rehearse on **Sunday mornings** after the service, from **11:30 to noon**. This is a great opportunity for your child to learn about music and healthy vocal technique, and to gain experience working in an ensemble and performing in front of others. It also provides a firm theological foundation for faith formation; all songs are based in Scripture and focus on God's love.

The **Adult Choir** sings each week; we rehearse **Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. No previous vocal/choral experience is necessary!!** The only requirement for membership is the ability to match pitch and to follow direction. Some choir members read music; many others don't, so all music is taught by ear, by sight, and by repetition. Rehearsals cover healthy vocal technique, expressive singing, working as an ensemble, and everything is grounded in our desire to share, worship, praise, and glorify God. Come for the singing, stay for the fun and the fellowship—we hope to see you there!

Worship Team Meets This Tuesday

The **Worship Planning Team** will meet **this Tuesday, September 18th, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Music Room—all are welcome. Join us as we work to enrich worship services with creative, artistic elements including music, dance, drama, spoken word, and visual arts. *Interested? Want more information? Contact Chanelle.*

Next Sunday...

The **Children's Choir** will sing in worship next **Sunday, September 23rd**. *Parents, please plan to have your child/children attend rehearsal in the Music Room immediately after this morning's service.*

For more information about the choir and/or other worship arts ministries, contact Chanelle.

Message Notes

Consistory highlights from this week's meeting

- **Search Committee** (Malcolm Schweizer, Nalani Figueroa, Bridget Gallagher, Amber Knight, Steve Marsella, Rev. Rebecca McDonnell, and Bill Thompson) has been meeting to draw up job descriptions for an **Associate Pastor** of Christian Education and Youth, and an **Operations Manager**. Full descriptions will be available online soon.
- **Sunday School** regular classes will be offered later in the church year to allow for proper planning, a rest for teachers and to give students and teachers an opportunity to worship together. **Activity time** will continue for children up to age 6. **Senior High** will meet with Don Hancock on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the Undercroft.
- **Approved purchase** of a new Yamaha Clavinova keyboard for the music room.
- **Discussed transitional housing** program for Prison Ministry
- **Planned Deacon's** meeting to review **benevolence giving**

STRC Vision

(Timeless expression of desired state-of-being)

A church and faith community dedicated to loving God by inviting others into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ; and by serving one another.

STRC Values

(Overarching values that represent our ethos into which all other values fit and describe meaning)

Faith, Hope, Love, Grace

STRC Mission

(Four (4) to five (5) year objective that moves us toward the Vision)

Surrendering to God through Jesus Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit,
Teaching God's Word,
Reflecting and Sharing God's Love
Carrying forth God's Will

STRC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Neevel

Minister of Music & Arts: Chanelle Schaffer

Executive Office Administrator: Dawn Wheatley Comissiong

Retreat Center Coordinator: Maria V. Gomez Christian

Maintenance Supervisor: Charles Edwards

Website Manager and Graphic Designer: Phyllis Carrozza

Contact Information

Office Phone 340-776-8255

Street Address 2105 Crystal Gade # 5 St. Thomas, VI 00802-6661

Mailing Address PO Box 301769 St. Thomas, VI 00803

Website: www.stthomasreformedchurch.org

Email: mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org

STRC "APP" free from iTunes and Google Play

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasreformedchurch/>