

St. Thomas Reformed Church



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

September 23, 2018

All are Welcome

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ

Eighteenth 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

Introit

“Come and Sing”

Lau

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 27; John 4:23)*

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

Amen!

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

We desire to live in God’s house and to seek God in this holy temple.

We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Teach us your ways and make straight our paths in this hour of worship and always.

Prayer

***Hymn # 683**

‘O for a World’

AZMON

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, reflect your love, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior...

Response

‘Christ, Be Our Light’ verses 1 & 5

Farrell

Words of Assurance and Hope

Children's Choir Anthem "Jesus, the Light of the World"

Elderkin

See the bright and Morning Star
Jesus, the Light of the world!
He has risen in our hearts
Jesus, the Light of the World

Walk in the light, beautiful light
Come where his love
and his mercy shine bright
Shine all around us by day and by night
Jesus, the Light of the World

He's the lamp that lights our way...
Step by step, and day by day ...

No more darkness, no more night...
He will shine forever bright...

Children's Message

***Hymn # 599**

'Day By Day'

Schwartz

(Children age 10 and under are excused to Activity time.)

...To Hear God's Word...

Scripture

James 3:13-4:8

P 1102

Message

"Reflecting Wisdom!"

...And Respond with Gratitude

Offering

Offertory

“Committin’ This Day”

Johnson

Oh, Lord, I'm committin' this day to You
Not one thing's gonna stand in my way
I'm committin' this day to You

My heart, Lord of my heart
From the start, here is my heart
My mind, Lord of my mind
all of the time, here is my mind

My soul, Lord of my soul
From the word "go", here is my soul
My strength, Lord of my strength
All that I do, here is my strength

I will seek You, Lord
With all of my heart, and all of my mind
All of my soul, and all of my strength

***Doxology**

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

***Hymn # 677**

‘Let There Be Peace on Earth’

Miller/Jackson

***Benediction**

...Depart in peace



Christ, Be Our Light



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for

5. Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —

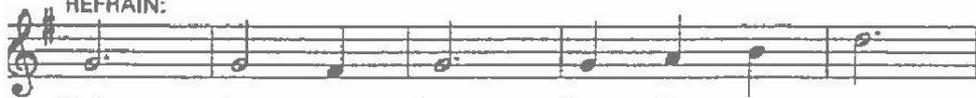
5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



1. your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see. —

5. to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come. —

REFRAIN:



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your church gath-ered to - day. —

GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All the people of the church
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, the Children's and Adult Choirs
Greeters:	Camille and Bob Stolz
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 10 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!

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).

CALENDAR

TODAY	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
Tues., Sept 25	11:30 - 1:00 p.m.	Salvation Army Lunch
Thurs., Sept 27	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal (MR)
Sat., Sept 29	11:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Bethlehem House Lunch
Sun., Sept 30	9:00 - 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m.	Café in the Pavilion Sunday Worship Activity Time

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK*:

- ◆ Congratulations to Kenneth Covert & Susannah Fairly on their engagement !
- ◆ Students and teachers returning to school and those who still need to.
- ◆ 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.

The next Women's Bible Study will begin in Oct (probably the 2nd week of Oct on Mondays). All women are welcome. See or email Billie if you are interested so she can have enough books for us. It is for 6 weeks so we will finish by Thanksgiving. billie.hodges@gmail.com

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

Bathrooms are available in the Undercroft and the Bakery Square building.

Next Week's Lectionary Scripture Readings

- ◆ Esther 7:16, 9-10; 9:20-22
- ◆ Psalm 124
- ◆ Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
- ◆ Psalm 19:7-14
- ◆ James 5:13-20
- ◆ Mark 9:38-50

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!

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

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****

RC² Updates

The St. Thomas Reformed Church Retreat Center will be welcoming two groups of volunteers from Colts Neck Reformed Church. First group arrives on Saturday, September 29, 2018. This first group is being led by Pastor Jeff's only sister- Kay Brown. Second group will be arriving on October 6, 2018.

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

Docent: John Paul Sperlich

Contact Information

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