

St. Thomas Reformed Church



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

September 30, 2018

All are Welcome

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ

Nineteenth 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

“Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ”

SURSUM CORDA

*Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say
I only know my need, as deep as life,
and only You can teach me how to pray
Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
help me to see your purpose and your will
Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
held in forgiving love, let me be still
Come with the vision and the strength I need
to serve my God, and all humanity
Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured;
my life in You, O Christ, your love in me*

Call to Worship

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

Amen!

Lift up your hearts to God, who has made us all;

Let us lift up our prayers and praises to God our Creator.

Listen to the voice of God who is calling you;

God is calling us into the way of love, mercy, and justice.

Follow Jesus, who leads us in the way of love;

To do the work that God has prepared for us. May we enter this time of worship with gladness and thanksgiving for what God has done for us.

Prayer

**Sing a new world into being, sound a bold and hopeful theme
Find a tune for silent yearnings, lend your voice and dare to dream
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong
Sing a new world into being; sing as Christ inspires your song!**

**Sing a new world into being, where each gender, class and race
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace
Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind
Sing a new world into being; risk transforming heart and mind!**

**Sing a new world into being, where the homeless find a home
Where no children ever hunger, but are filled in God's shalom
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease
Sing a new world into being; raise the harmonies of peace!**

**Sing a new world into being, join the ancient prophets' cry
For a time of health and plenty, when all tears have been wiped dry
When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve
Sing a new world into being; live the promise you believe!**

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**O God, we confess the blindness that is not even aware of sinning;
the pride that dares not admit that it is wrong;
the selfishness that can see nothing but its own will;
the righteousness that knows no fault;
the callousness that has ceased to care;
the defiance that does not regret its own sins;
the evasion that always tries to make excuses;
the coldness of heart that is too hardened to repent.
God, we have strayed from your paths of righteousness.
Forgive us, we pray, and be merciful to us. In Jesus' name...**

Words of Assurance and Hope (Romans 5:8)

The love God has for us is proven in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Hear then Christ's word of grace: Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Anthem

“Take Now My Voice”

Nolan

*Take now my voice, let me sing for Thee;
Fill me with Your Spirit, Lord; sing Your song through me
Take now my hands, let me touch for Thee
Fill me with Your kindness, Lord; heal the world through me
Fill me with Your living Word, let it set my way
Make in me Your temple, Lord; shine through me each day
Take now my heart, let me love for Thee
Fill me with Your Spirit, Lord; love the world through me
Take now my life, let me live for Thee
Fill me with Your power, Lord; change the world through me*

Children’s Message

***Hymn # 572**

‘Take Time to Be Holy’

HOLINESS

...To Hear God’s Word...

Scripture

James 5:13-20

P 1104

Message

“The Prayer of Faith”

...And Respond with Gratitude

Offering

Offertory

“Be Blessed”
Andrea Lee, soloist

Morton

*Be blessed, my brother; be blessed, my sister
Be blessed wherever this life leads you
Let me encourage you, let me speak life to you
You can depend on God to see you through
You can depend on me to pray for you
You might be hurting, you might be crying
You might be worrying, and frustrated, too
Let me encourage you, let me speak life to you
You can depend on God to see you through
You can depend on me to pray for you
Pray, I'm gonna keep on praying for you
I see you in the future, and you look brand new
I see you walking in glory, and in victory, too
I pray for you, you pray for me, and watch God change things*

*Doxology

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Pledge

(You are invited to fill out the “prayer pledge” card and bring it forward to the altar as an act of commitment to pray...)

Song of Commitment

“Take My Life”

Bradbury/Walker

*Hymn # 452

‘Here I Am, Lord’

Schutte

*Benediction

*Postlude

...Depart in peace



GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All the people of the church
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Liturgist:	Ava Kendall
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Lori Abbotts, Andrea Lee, Penny Woods and the Adult Choir
Greeters:	Camille and Bob Stolz
Head Ushers:	Dr. Adam Flowers and Joel Comissiong

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.

Welcome to members of the Colts Neck Reformed Church in Colts Neck, NJ! Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with our island community this week. May the Lord bless the work of your hands! **Next Sunday** we welcome their Senior Pastor Rev. Scott Brown who will be leading worship while Pastor Jeff is on a study trip to Israel with Reformed Church missionaries Sally and Josh Vis (for more info. visit www.joshvis.com)

Today Pastor Jeff finishes 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.

At the end of the service you will be invited to make a personal commitment to prayer and to the success of our mission by writing down your prayer for the church, your pledge to pray and your requests for the elders and pastor to pray. *"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."* -James 5:16

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.

XYG – (eXamine Your God): If you are a high school student (*grades 9-12*) and want to be part of a life-changing Mission Trip experience next Spring, come find out what it's all about. **Sunday, October 28 after worship!**

CALENDAR

TODAY	9:00 - 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m. 11:30 - noon	Café in the Pavilion Sunday Worship Activity Time Children's Choir Rehearsal (MR)
Tues., Oct 2	11:30 - 1:00 p.m.	Salvation Army Lunch
Thurs., Oct 4	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal (MR)
Sat., Oct 6	11:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Bethlehem House Lunch
Sun., Oct 7	9:00 - 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m.	Café in the Pavilion Communion and Sunday Worship Activity Time

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

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).

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

- ◆ Job 1:1; 2:1-10
- ◆ Psalm 26
- ◆ Genesis 2:18-24
- ◆ Psalm 8
- ◆ Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
- ◆ Mark 10:2-16

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!

The **Children's Choir** will sing in worship **next Sunday, October 7th**. *Parents, please plan to have your child/children attend this morning's rehearsal at 11:30 in the Music Room to prepare!*

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****

Message Notes

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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