

St. Thomas Reformed Church



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

January 5, 2020

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

Second Sunday After Christmas Day

The liturgical color today is white in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ!

“ We Gather In God’s Presence...”

Gathering Music

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

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Prelude

"La Catedral"
Bonham Geller, guitar

Barrios Mangoré

Call to Worship

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

Amen!

We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

Prayer

*Hymn # 172

'We Three Kings'

KINGS OF ORIENT

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

We search for your light, Loving Lord, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Lord, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love...

Response

'Jesus, the Light of the World'

Elderkin/Bible

See the Bright and Morn - ing Star, Je - sus, the Light of the
World. - He has ris - en in our hearts, Je - sus, the Light of the
World. - Walk in the Light! Beau - ti - ful Light! Come where His love and His
mer - cy shine bright. Shine all a - round us by day and by night,
Je - sus, the Light of the World.

Verse 2:

He's the Lamp that lights our way, Jesus, the Light of the World
Step by step, and day by day, Jesus, the Light of the World

Words of Assurance and Hope

Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls,
the light of hope shines in us.

**This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and
give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Musical Offering

“Capricho Árabe”

Tárrega

Children’s Message

*Hymn # 53

‘Morning Has Broken’

BUNESSAN

“ ...To Hear God’s Word...”

Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-6

Page 676

Message

“A Work in Progress!”

“...And Respond with Gratitude!”

Offering

Offertory

“God’s Not Done with You”

Wells/Weisband

Jordan Hill

Standing in your ruins, feels a lot like the end

So used to losing, you're afraid to try again

Right now all you see are ashes

Where there was a flame

The truth is that you're not forgotten

'Cause Grace knows your name

God's not done with you
Even with your broken heart and your wounds and your scars
Even when you're lost and it's hard and you're falling apart
It's not over, it's only begun
So don't hide, don't run
'Cause God's not done with you

There's a light you don't notice
Until you're standing in the dark
And there's a strength that's growing
Inside your shattered heart

He's got a plan, this is part of it
He's gonna finish what He started
God's not done writing your story
God's not done with you!

***Doxology**

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

A Celebration of Worldwide Communion

(All who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome at the table. Beginning with the back pews, you are invited to come forward using the side aisles, break off a piece of bread and dip your bread into the cup. Then return to your seat using the center aisle.)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion**

***The Lord's Prayer**

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

***Benediction**

... Depart in peace



GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All the people of the church
Preaching:	Pastor Jeffrey Neevel
Liturgist:	Nicholas Figueroa
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Bonham Geller, Jordan Hill
Greeters:	Leroy and Kim Dennis
Head Ushers:	Joel Comissiong, Dr. Adam Flowers
Audio/Video:	James Cobb

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. Please then put them in the offering plate.

Happy New Decade to all. May the light of the Lord surround you and guide you all through this coming year.

We are pleased to announce that Lucy Sutton is our **new Social Media Specialist**. Lucy will be keeping us connected via our Website, APP and Social media. If you have things to share you may contact her at: lucidjoy.vi@gmail.com

(Special thanks to Steve Marsella for all of his work helping with this transition and to Phyllis Carrozza who has been administering our web site from afar for well over the last decade!)

We are pleased to announce that Bridget Gallagher has accepted the nomination to serve on **consistory as elder**. We will celebrate her ordination and installation during worship on Sunday, January 19.

If you haven't already, be sure to check out the recreated **art installation** by STRC member and artist Bill Thompson on the wall in our Kelbert Pavilion. Thank you Bill for sharing your gift with this beautiful piece!

Nursery care is available in Bakery Square with a live feed from the Sanctuary starting at 10.

Bathrooms for the congregation's use are in the Undercroft and inside the gate going to Bakery Square.

XYG will meet **next Sunday 1/12** at the P after worship! Plans for **Mission 2020 “Give Thanks!”** have been confirmed and we are excited to return to Jarabacoa, DR to continue building the K-8 school there! We welcome the following **XYG Alumni** who are serving in worship this morning:

Camren Bunn – A 2016 Antilles graduate has been studying biology at Loyola University in Chicago and pursuing work in modeling.

Luke Davis – A 2013 Antilles graduate, Luke is now Specialist Luke Davis, 2-508 Infantry Combat Team 82nd Airborne stationed at Ft. Bragg, NC.

Nalani Figueroa – a 2018 VIMSIA graduate now a sophomore at the University of the Virgin Islands studying for a degree in forensic psychology. Nalani spends her time experiencing different cultures by traveling to places like Peru, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and other islands in the Caribbean, volunteering at the Humane Society, coaching volleyball, and spending time with friends and family.

Nicholas Figueroa – A 2016 VIMSIA graduate and current University of the Virgin Islands student seeking a marketing degree, Nicholas currently spends his time working on his degree and sailing.

Maggie James – A 2018 Antilles graduate now at Boston College on their pre-med track majoring in Biology with a minor in Hispanic studies. Maggie continues participating in youth ministry through Young Life and 4Boston.

Karson Kendall – Moved off St Thomas in 2015 in his sophomore year of high school to Kansas City to play soccer at a major league soccer academy. After four years he was called up to the USVI Senior National Team and is presently a student/soccer athlete at High Point University in NC with his sights set on going pro after college.

Konner Kendall – A 2015 Antilles graduate and 2019 graduate of Elon University with a degree in Psychology, Konner presently splits his time between London, England trialing for football (soccer) clubs and North Carolina and USVI playing for the USVI Men’s National Soccer team.

St. Thomas Reformed Church Directory Update

Beth Benta will be available after worship this Sunday, to take more photos in front of the tree for those who would like to update or add their photos in the directory. If anyone already took a family photo during the holidays, they can email it to bethbenta@gmail.com or send via text to 215-450-3297 for use in the directory.

CALENDAR

TODAY	10:00 a.m. 11:30 - noon Noon - 12:30	Communion and Sunday Worship Children's Choir (MR) YouthSong Rehearsal (MR)
Tue., Jan 7	11:45 - 1:00 p.m.	Salvation Army Lunch
Wed., Jan 8	6:15 - 7:15 p.m.	Ladies Bible Study (Ciaccia home)
Thurs., Jan 9	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Sun., Jan 12	9:15 - 9:50 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m. After service After service 11:30 - noon Noon - 12:30	Christian Education Classes Sunday Worship Sr High Bible Study (PJM office) Birthday Sunday (Pavilion) YMT 2020 Meeting (Parsonage) Children's Choir (MR) YouthSong Rehearsal (MR)

Lectionary Scripture Readings for this week:

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18

STRC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Neevel
 Minister of Music & Arts: Chanelle Schaffer
 Church Administrator: Dawn Wheatley Comissiong
 Operations Administrator: Vicky Gomez Christian
 Maintenance Supervisor: Charles Edwards
 Social Media Specialist: Lucy Sutton

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/>