

St. Thomas Reformed Church



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

March 11, 2018

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The liturgical color today is purple representing a season of penitence and preparation!

“ We Gather In God’s Presence...”

Greeting and Ministry Updates

Introit

"God Has Done Great Things"

Dixon

Call to Worship

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

Amen!

In this place, the community of faith is reminded of the promise:

God's love endures forever!

In spite of our impatient grumbling, despite our attraction to the shadows:

Christ's light shines in us!

When we think our hands our empty, when we have no music in our souls:

the Spirit fills us with glad songs, and creates us for good works!

Prayer

*Hymn # 66

‘Immortal, Invisible’

ST. DENIO

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

903

1 O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
2 The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise.

when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O the
All my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the

Lord, hear my prayer; come and lis - ten to me.
Lord is my praise. God, the well - spring of life.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message***Hymn # 33**

'How Great Thou Art'

O STORE GUD

(Students and teachers are excused to Christian Education classes.)

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

Scriptures

Numbers 21:4-9

P 138

Message

"Shocking God!"

...And Respond with Gratitude

Offering

Offertory

"Blessings"

Story

We pray for blessings, we pray for peace; comfort for family, protection while we sleep

We pray for healing, for prosperity; we pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering

And all the while You hear each spoken need, yet Your love is way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops

What if Your healing comes through tears

And what if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near

And what if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear; we cry in anger when we cannot feel You near

We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love

As if ev'ry promise from Your Word is not enough

And all the while You hear each desp'rate plea, and long that we'd have faith to believe

When friends betray us, when darkness seems to win

We know that pain reminds this heart that this is not this is not our home

What if my greatest disappointments, or the aching of this life

Is a revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy

And what if trials of this life; the rain, the storms, the hardest nights

Are Your mercies in disguise

***Doxology**

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn # 566**

'Be Still My Soul'

FINLANDIA

***Benediction**

...Depart in peace



GIVING THANKS:

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All the people of the church
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Liturgist:	Ammiel Maynard
Readers:	Chantal Figueroa and Rev Fred Northup
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer and the Adult Choir
Greeters:	Lucy Sutton and Noel Regalado
Head Ushers:	Dr. Adam Flowers and John Woods
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.

Welcome to Howard University Alternative Spring Break group who are on island assisting with our recovery efforts. The leaders are Vionna Moore, NaTazah O’Neil, Asia Powell, Zachary Mills, Madison Taylor and Adanech Makey. Faculty advisors are Miss Andreyia Davis and Dr. Keneshia Grant.

XYG will be hosting them and serving lunch at E’s Tea Garden immediately following worship. (*Reminder: XYG Parents meeting in the Bakery Square annex*)

Welcome Rev. Jack Klunder and members of the Harbor Churches of greater Grand Rapids, Michigan who are here for two weeks assisting with hurricane relief efforts. Thank you and may God bless the work of your hands!

Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday 3/25 at 10am – Includes the baptism of Calvin Salzbrun, son of Erin & Ben Salzbrun!

Maunder Thursday – 3/29 7pm Communion

Good Friday – 3/30 7pm Service of shadows

Easter Sunrise – 6am @ Smith Bay Beach - Baptism!

Easter Celebration - 10am in our sanctuary!

The bathroom in the undercroft is available for use.

CALENDAR

TODAY	10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m. 11:30 - noon	Sunday Worship Christian Education Children's Choir Practice (Music Room)
Tues., Mar 13	11:30 - 1 p.m.	Salvation Army Lunch
Thurs., Mar 15	10:00 - 11:30 a.m. 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. 6:15 - 8:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Marsella Home) Adult Choir Practice (Music Room) Women's Bible Study (Hodges' Home)
Sat., Mar 17	10:00 a.m. - noon 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Practice (Music Room) Bethlehem House Lunch
Sun., Mar 18	10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m. 11:30 - 12 noon	Sunday Worship Christian Education Children's Choir Practice (Music Room)

Next Week's Lectionary Scripture Readings

- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
- Hebrews 5:5-10
- John 12:20-33

Inquirer's Class for anyone interested in what it means to be an active member of the Reformed Church will meet **next Sunday, March 18 at 11:30am** in Pastor Jeff's office. There's still time to sign up! For more information contact Pastor Jeff at mail@stthomasreformedchurch.org.

The sacrament of Baptism will be offered at our annual Easter sunrise service April 1 @ 6am on Smith Bay Beach. If you or your children have not been baptized and are interested in receiving this sacrament, please contact Pastor Jeff. Information about the Reformed view of Baptism can be found at <https://www.rca.org/resources/baptism-in-the-rca>

A Women's Bible Study meets twice a week. The daytime group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 am at the Marsella condo in Mahogany Run. Please speak to Robin for more info, 610-597-8312. The evening group meets at 6:15 pm on Thursdays at Billie Hodges' home. Call her for directions, 340-514-2623. The DVD series study is titled "God of Creation" by Jen Wilken. All women are welcome.

Weekly Donation Envelopes are here. Please take yours from the back table. If you have not been assigned a box, see Dawn to get one.

Music and Worship Arts Events

Singers Wanted!

Seeking singers for our "Holy Week Choir": The Adult Choir is preparing music for Holy Week, and we'd love to have **you** participate!

Palm Sunday is March 25th--just two weeks from today--and we're working on some truly beautiful music. No previous choral experience is necessary--the only requirements for membership are the ability to match pitch and to follow direction. If you've been here for previous Holy Week services, you know how powerful and moving the music can be; this year, instead of just listening to it, think about being a part of it! For more info, contact Chanelle, or speak to any choir member.

Worship Team meets this Tuesday!

The Worship Planning Team will meet **this Tuesday, March 13th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room**. New members are always welcome--feel free to attend and join us in exploring the many ways that the creative & performing arts can be used to enhance and deepen the experience of worship. Our focus will be on Holy Week services and beyond.

STRC Dance Ministry

The Dance Ministry will be participating in STRC's **Holy Week services**. Much of the movement will be **simple and easily accessible for dancers--and non-dancers!**--of all ages. If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, speak to Camille McKayle-Stoltz or Rebecca McDonnell.

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir will sing in worship on both **Palm and Easter Sundays**--parents, **please plan to have your child attend rehearsal after worship this morning to prepare!**

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!

Salvation Army Helpers this week

Mac Davis, Julie North, Linda Gidley, Keely Wojtylak and Mary Klunder

PRAYER REQUESTS*

- ◆ Hannah Upp and Georgia Ann Murphy missing since Irmaria
- ◆ STRC Prison Ministry
- ◆ Beth Strickling, battling cancer

*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.

STRC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Neevel

Minister of Music & Arts: Chanelle Schaffer

Executive Office Administrator: Dawn Wheatley Comissioning

Retreat Center Coordinator: Maria V. Gomez Christian

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Nicole Wheatley Jackson

Christian Education Directors: Melissa Rogati & Rev. Rebecca McDonnell

Maintenance Supervisor: Charles Edwards

Security: Carl Griffin & John Paul Sperlich

Website Manager and Graphic Designer: Phyllis Carrozza

Contact Information

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