

# *St. Thomas Reformed Church*



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

**May 13, 2018**

*All are Welcome*

*In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ*

# Seventh Sunday of Easter

The color today is white for the continued celebration of our Risen Lord!

## “ 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!**

### Introit

“Uyai Mose”

Gondo

### Prayer

### \*Hymn # 272

‘The Church’s One Foundation’

AURELIA

### Call to Confession

### Unison Prayer of Confession

God of Grace, we confess that we are slow to believe your promises. We are quick to put our trust in every news story that comes across our televisions and each headline we read on the internet, but we are often reluctant to place our trust in your Word. Forgive us, Lord, for dismissing the testimony that we have from you. Keep us ‘in’ this world but not ‘of’ this world. Open our ears and our hearts to embrace your gift of life, and teach us to fully rely on you. We pray these things in the name of your Son, Jesus the Christ...

### Response # 344

‘I Have Decided to Follow Jesus’

ASSAM

## Assurance of Pardon

The good news is that all who trust in Christ will have their sins forgiven and receive eternal life. As you hold this faith, I declare that you are set free from all your sins in the name of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Children's Choir Anthem** "I've Got the Joy/Way Down Deep" *Trad./Selah*

## Children's Message

**\*Hymn**

'Like A Mother Who Has Borne Us'

*AUSTIN*

See page 5

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

**A Mother's Testimony** - Barbara Bellus

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

**Scripture**

John 17:6-19

*P 984*

**Message**

**"When Prayers Fail"**

## ...And Respond with Gratitude

**Offering**

**Offertory**

**"Loves Me Like a Rock"**

*Simon*

Dr. Ronald Nimmo, soloist

When I was a little boy, and the Devil would call my name  
I'd say, "Now who do you think you're fooling?"  
I'm a consecrated boy, a singer in a Sunday choir

Oh, my mama loves me, she loves me  
She gets down on her knees and hugs me  
Oh, she loves me like a rock  
She rocks me like the rock of ages  
And she loves me

When I was grown to be a man,  
and the Devil would call my name  
I'd say "Now who do you think you're fooling?"  
I'm a consummated man  
I can snatch a little purity...

And If I was the President,  
and the Congress called my name  
I'd say "Now who do you think you're fooling?"  
I've got the presidential seal,  
I'm up on the presidential podium...

**\*Doxology**

**Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer**

**\*Hymn # 433**

'Blest Be the Tie that Binds'

DENNIS

**\*Benediction**

*...Depart in peace*



# Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

583

Daniel Bechtel, 1986

Hos. 11:1-9; 2 Tim. 1:8-10

Unison

1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us  
2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our  
3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our  
4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our

close in her de - light, Fed us free - ly from her  
hand and been our guide, Lift - ed us and healed our  
trust in power and might, Left be - hind our broth - ers,  
neigh - bor's hand in love, Tread the path of peace and

bod - y, God has called us in - to life.  
sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.  
sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.  
jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

*This hymn was inspired by Hosea's depiction of the parental aspects of God's relationship with Israel. It was first sung at a chapel service at Dickinson College, where Daniel Bechtel, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, began his tenure as professor of religion in 1964.*

Tune: AUSTIN 8.7.8.7.  
William P. Rowan, 1992  
Alternate tune: STUTT GART

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## GIVING THANKS:

### Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All the people of the church
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Liturgist:	Nicholas Figueroa
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Dr. Ronald Nimmo, Noel Regalado, the Adult and Children's Choirs
Greeters:	Leroy and Kim Dennis
Head Ushers:	Dr. Adam Flowers and John Woods
Audio:	Steve Marsella and Henry Ong

**A warm welcome to our visitors** and a Happy Mother's Day to everyone. You are invited to complete the visitor registration forms at the end of the pew or on the back table.

**Thank you** to Barbara Bellus for sharing her testimony and music this morning.

**Summer Camp** (for children ages 5 to 13) will run from July 9th to August 3rd at Magens Bay. Registration is now open. Forms are available on our website. Please get your forms in as soon as possible since spaces fill up quickly.

### Music & Arts Updates

#### **Children's Choir Sings next Sunday!**

The Children's Choir will sing in worship next Sunday, as we celebrate Pentecost. Parents, please plan to have your child/children attend this morning's rehearsal to prepare.

#### **Pentecost Sunday 5/20/2018**

Join us next Sunday as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church with performances by the Adult and Children's Choirs, Dance Ministry, and special musical guests. You won't want to miss this very special service!

**The two bathrooms** in the Undercroft are available for use.

## CALENDAR

TODAY	9:00 - 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m. 11:30 a.m. - noon	Café in the Pavilion Sunday Worship Christian Education Children's Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Tues., May 15	11:30 - 1 p.m.	Salvation Army Lunch
Thurs. May 17	6:00 - 7:30 pm.	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Sat., May 19	11:00 - 12:30 p.m. 11:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Dance Ministry Rehearsal (Sanctuary) Bethlehem House Lunch
Sun., May 20	9:00 - 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m.	Café in the Pavilion Sunday Worship Christian Education

### Next Week's Lectionary Scripture Readings

- Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Psalm 104:24-35
- 1 Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
- John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### PRAYER REQUESTS\*

#### For Health, healing and well-being

- ◆ Benjamin Salas
- ◆ Alisande Donahue
- ◆ Robert deJongh
- ◆ Hannah Upp, Georgia Ann Murphy and all those missing since Irmaria
- ◆ STRC Prison Ministry and all those involved

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

**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, Linda Gidley, Tom Baily and Joe Tulis

**The last day of** Sunday School will be on May 27. Nursery for ages 2 and under will continue through the summer. Activity Time for children ages 3-10 will begin on June 3. Parents, please sign up to lead a week or two of Activity Time on the list in the back of the sanctuary. Lessons will be provided or you can feel free to create your own! (For our older 2 year olds who began Sunday School early this year due to the lack of nursery space following the storms, they are free to attend Activity Time rather than go to the nursery and maintain the “habit” of Sunday School over the summer.)

**Looking for ways to SERVE** but don't know just how? Please consider becoming a prayer partner to one of our visiting youth coming from Michigan to work in the ongoing recovery efforts in the Territory for the week of June 21 -29, 2018. Sign-up sheets located in the back of Church. Feel call to ask Nicole Jackson or Vicky Christian for more information.

## **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

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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