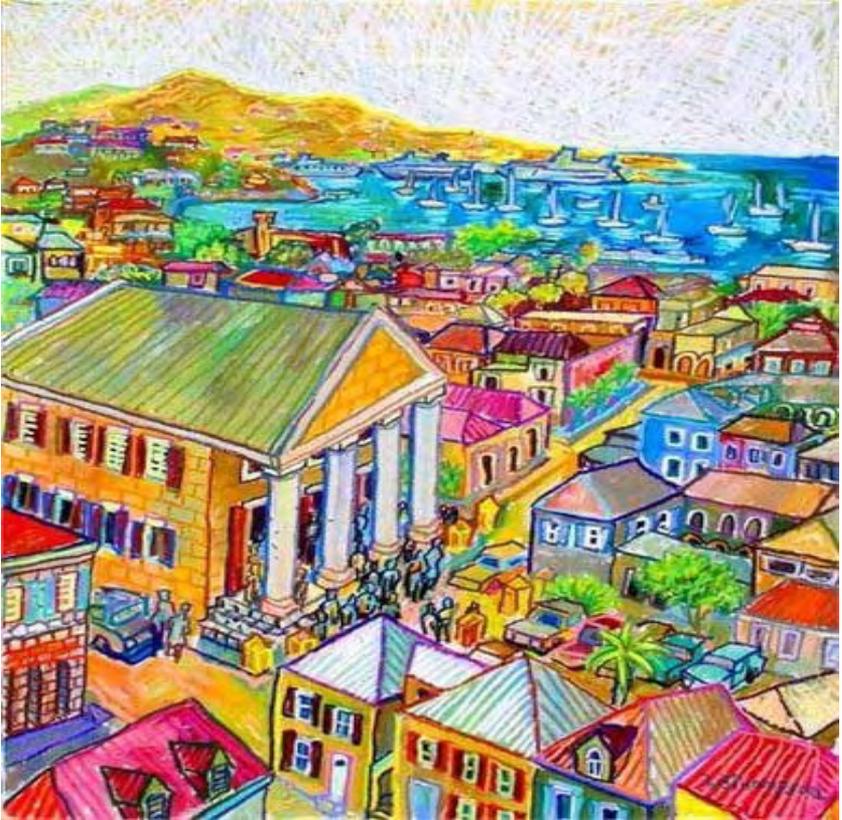


# *St. Thomas Reformed Church*



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

**May 27, 2018**

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

# First Sunday After Pentecost

The liturgical color today is white representing the joy of the Holy Spirit in our midst!

## “ 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!**

Voice of God, you speak to us in so many ways - giving us strength.

**We come, to worship our God and to listen to God’s messages of hope.**

Voice of God, you speak to us in so many ways - giving us your peace.

**We come, to worship our God and to learn of God’s messages of grace.**

Voice of God, you speak to us in so many ways – and we respond in worship, as we reverently honor the Lord for the glory of his name; and all the splendor of God’s holiness, God’s power, and of God’s majesty.

**We come, to worship our God and to be challenged by God’s messages that call us to respond in reverent awe as we sing our praises to God’s glory!**

Introit # 599

“Day by Day”

GODSPELL

Prayer

\*Hymn

‘Lord, I Need You’

Lord, I come, I confess, Bowing here I find my rest,  
Without You I fall apart, You’re the One that guides my heart

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You, Every hour I need You  
My one defense, my righteousness Oh God, how I need You*

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more, Where grace is found is where You are  
Where You are, Lord, I am free; Holiness is Christ in me

*Chorus*

So teach my song to rise to You, When temptation comes my way  
When I cannot stand I’ll fall on You, Jesus, You’re my hope and stay

Call to Confession

## Unison Prayer of Confession

In the mystery of creation, Imaginative God, you shaped beauty and goodness, yet we damage it by our selfishness and anger. In the mystery of life, Child of Hope, you became one of us, yet all too often we turn our back on you. In the mystery of peace, Breath of Life, you would gentle our natures, yet we cling tenaciously to our bitterness and hurt. In the mystery of grace, Holy God, you forgive us our sins, that we might embrace others. In the mystery of mercy, you touch our lips, that we might speak gently to others. In the mystery of hope, you claim us as family, sisters and brothers of the One who brought new life for all, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior...

Response

‘Jesus Loves Me/So Deep’  
Kya Merrill

Chisum

## Words of Assurance and Hope

Here, in this moment and in this place, the Spirit of gentleness moves in our midst. Mercy, hope and joy are the gifts of God to each and every one of us.

**No longer lost, we have found our way home, surrounded by God's peace, by God's grace, by God's love.**

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

**Amen.**

## Sunday School Appreciation

Melissa Rogati

\*Hymn #609

‘Take My Life’

HENDON

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

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

Scripture

John 3:1-17

P 968

Message

“More Than You Will Ever Know”

## ...And Respond with Gratitude

Offering

Offertory

“What a Wonderful World”  
Dr. Ronald Nimmo, soloist

Weiss & Thiele

## Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn

‘For God So Loved the World He Made’

O WALY WALY

*See page 4*

\*Benediction

# For God So Loved the World He Made 71

## Descant

3 For God so loved the world he made, he gave his  
 D G C Gsus G Bm

1 For God so loved the world he made, he gave his  
 2 God did not send Christ to the world that he might  
 3 For God so loved the world he made, he gave his

own be - lov - ed Son; all who be - lieve in him will  
 Em Am G Dsus D G C

own be - lov - ed Son; all who be - lieve in him will  
 then con - demn us all, but that the world by Christ's own  
 own be - lov - ed Son; all who be - lieve in him will

live - not die, but live for - ev - er.  
 G Am G/B C Dsus D C G

live - not die, but live for - ev - er - more.  
 death might then be ran - somed from the fall.  
 live - not die, but live for - ev - er - more.

**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 **Marble Collegiate Church in New York** who are staying in our Retreat Center and working alongside MBW with hurricane relief!

**Today, will** bring our **Sunday School classes** to a close for this year. We give thanks for all of our teachers and staff. They were flexible following the storms, have taught combined classes, subbed in for those caught off-island who couldn't get flights back, stepped in to cover classes where we lost teachers unexpectedly, and have moved around to multiple spaces throughout the year (sometimes without prior warning) to accommodate the changing footprint of our post-storm church buildings and lack of space. This is a team that has been committed to keeping stability and routine for our kids, in spite of facing the same personal challenges and stressors that we have all had to face this year. They each deserve a forever spot in the STRC Sunday School Hall of Fame!

### **Children & Worship and Following Jesus**

Bridget Gallagher, Rev. Rebecca McDonnell, Deb Merrill and Seth Rogati

#### **3rd & 4th Grades**

Chantal Figueroa and Rachel Miller

#### **7th & 8th Grade**

Melissa Rogati

#### **5th & 6th Grades**

Sarah Brin and Kilolo Nieves

#### **High School**

Don Hancock

**The fall** and spring semesters for **Sunday School** were very non-traditional this year. Some classes had to combine for various lengths of time, some for the full year. For this reason we will not be celebrating individual attendance awards. Every child and family who continued to attend this year, whether they were on island post-storm or couldn't return for several months, you all deserve awards in our eyes!

**Special recognition** and appreciation are given to our Sunday School director Melissa Rogati who is retiring after 10 years of service, Rev. Rebecca McDonnell who is retiring after 26 years of service as Children & Worship director, and youth coordinator Nicole Jackson who will retire following our SERVE week (July 1). Please take a moment today to thank all our teachers and staff!

### **Salvation Army helpers this week**

Tom Bailey and Joe Tulis

## CALENDAR

TODAY	9:00 - 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m.	Café in the Pavilion Sunday Worship Christian Education
Tues., May 29	11:30 - 1 p.m.	Salvation Army Lunch
Thurs. May 31	6:00-7:30 p.m. 6:15 - 8 p.m.	Adult Choir rehearsal (Music Room) Women's Bible Study (Ciaccia's home)
Sat., June 2	11:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Bethlehem House Lunch
Sun., June 3	9:00 - 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 - noon	Café in the Pavilion Sunday Worship Children's Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

### Next Week's Lectionary Scripture Readings

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
- Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
- Deuteronomy 5:12-15
- Psalm 81:1-10
- 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
- Mark 2:23-3:6

## Music & Arts Updates

### Thank You!

**Thanks** to all who participated in last Sunday's Pentecost service--the Holy Spirit was truly present, moving in a powerful way!

### Next Sunday

**Next Sunday**, June 3rd, we are excited to welcome back guest soloist Laura Strickling. Laura is a highly acclaimed soprano who sings all over the works and was featured in this year's Water Island Music Festival. Mark your calendars, because you won't want to miss this very special event!

### Save the Date!

**STRC welcomes** visiting Guest Artist Nancy Dobbs Owen. Nancy is a Los Angeles-based dancer/choreographer who's been featured in multiple award-winning productions, including National Tours and films. She is a master teacher currently employed by L.A.'s American Musical and Dramatic Academy and is a much-in-demand choreographer of theater and film. Nancy will join us from June 9th through the 18th--stay tuned for more information about workshops and performances!

## GIVING THANKS:

### Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All the people of the church
Preaching:	Pastor Jeff Neevel
Liturgist:	Jessica Henderson
Music:	Steve Richman, Kya Merrill and Dr. Ronald Nimmo
Greeters:	Randy and Thames Shaw
Head Ushers:	Dr. Adam Flowers and John Woods
Audio:	Steve Marsella and Henry Ong

**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 applications in as soon as possible since spaces fill up quickly. All the **staff positions have been filled!!**

**Congratulations** to XYGers who are graduating from High School. May the Lord bless them and all our other graduates!

Jordan Bunn	Isabella Hawkes	Anthony Smith
Julia Cassinelli	Maggie James	Solana Suazo
Shaw Clements	Karson Kendall	Talisse Thompson
Harry DeHaas	Keegan Mays	Alex Whitter
Grant Farrell	Seidon Nemeth	Silas Wisehart
Nalani Figueroa	Cameron Newton	Melia Scott

### PRAYER REQUESTS\*

- ◆ Graduates!
  - ◆ Volunteers, safety and gratitude
- For Health, healing and well-being
- ◆ Benjamin Salas
  - ◆ Alisande Donahue
  - ◆ David Schaffer
  - ◆ 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!

**Both bathrooms are** available in the Undercroft.

**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 free to ask Nicole Jackson or Vicky Christian for more information.

**A Women's Bible Study** continues with second session on Thursday, at 6:15 pm at Edye Ciaccia's home. It is a 6 week DVD study on Open Doors: "All the places to go; How will you know?" by John Ortberg.

**Congratulations** and blessings to John Antoine and Simone Liverpool who will be married in our sanctuary immediately following today's service of worship.

**Crystal Gade Clean Up** will take place this Saturday, June 2 from 8 - 11 am. Meet in the STRC parking lot. Trash bags, water and gloves will be provided.

## 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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