

**\*Passing of the Peace**..... Thomas Brooks

*Note: The Congregation will please turn to each other and speak these words of greeting: "May the peace of Christ be with you."  
And the answer of response: "And, also with you."*

*Note: The Congregation may please be seated.*

**Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*debts/debtors*)..... Amy Stearns

*Note: The Congregation should please remain seated for the reading of Scripture.*

**Epistle Reading:** Colossians 1:15-23..... Martha Ruggiero

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

*Note: The Congregation may please be seated.*

**Sermon:** "He Pitched His Tent Among Us" ..... Rev. Giffone

**Sermon Text:** John 1:1-18

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
*Remembrance · Communion · Hope*

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**..... Rev. Giffone

**Offering:** *The Wexford Carol* ..... *arr. Helvey*

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done in sending his beloved son.  
With Mary mild we should pray, to God with love this Christmas Day.

*Note: If able, the Congregation should please stand for the Offertory Hymn.*

**\*Offertory Hymn:** *Doxology*..... *OLD HUNDRETH*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Note: The Congregation should please remain standing, if able to do so.*

**\*Offertory Prayer**..... Rev. Giffone

*Note: The Congregation may please be seated.*

*Note: We welcome the families with children sitting in the rear of the sanctuary to come forward and find seating in the front of the church, so that the children may observe the Celebration of Holy Communion.*

**Communion Opening Prayer**

**and Words of Institution** ..... Rev. Giffone

**Distribution of the Bread:** *The body of Christ, broken for you.*

As you pass the bread, please say to the next person:  
**"The body of Christ, broken for you."**

Upon receipt of the bread, please hold it until all have been served, so that we can partake of the bread together, as a sign of our oneness in Christ and membership in His corporate body—the Christian Church.

**Distribution of the Cup:** *The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

As you pass the cup, please say to the next person:  
**"The blood of Christ, shed for you."**

Upon receipt of the cup, please hold it until all have been served, so that we can partake of the cup together, as a sign of our oneness in Christ and membership in His corporate body—the Christian Church.

Please use the baskets we have provided in alternate rows for disposal of the used communion cups

**Prayer following Communion** ..... Rev. Giffone

*Note: If able, the Congregation should please stand for the Hymn.*

**\*Hymn No. 140:** *O Word of God Incarnate* ..... *MUNICH*

*Note: If able, the Congregation should please remain standing following the Hymn*

**\*Benediction** ..... Rev. Giffone

*Note: At the conclusion of the Benediction, the Congregation is dismissed.*

**Postlude:** *O How Joyfully/Joy to the World*.....*arr. Berry*

*\* Congregation should please stand, if you are able to do so.*

**Pastor:** ..... Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD

**Minister of Music and Worship:** ..... Thomas Brooks

**Accompanist:** ..... Shirley Wilson

To contact the church, please send an email to the following address:  
**info@rpecerie.org**

To contact Pastor Benj, please send him an email at: **pastor@rpecerie.org**

Or, please call or text him at: **724-221-2595**

**REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*An Evangelical Presbyterian Church*



<https://www.rpecerie.org>

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*December 22, 2024*

Worship Theme: *"Rather than allowing His broken creation to fall apart or be abolished, the Creator God took on human flesh to redeem and retake that which was lost. Jesus is the exact representation of the Father, the fullest revelation of God's glory, character, and love."*

We welcome children of all ages in our Worship Service. At the Information Center in the rear of the Sanctuary, we offer children a "Book Bucket" with books and activities for their use. Parents, please do not be concerned if your young child cries. We believe that the cries of young children signal that the church is alive, well, and destined to continue for generations to come.

**Welcome, Announcements, and Introduction to Worship**..... Thomas Brooks

**Prelude:** *Thou Who Wast Rich* ..... *arr. Manz*

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love's sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love's sake becamest poor.

*Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.*

**Call to Worship:** (*responsively*) ..... Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Let us prepare our hearts

**Congregation: as we await the coming of our Lord.**

Liturgist: Let us watch for the one who heard our cries

**Congregation: and shouldered the suffering of our world.**

Liturgist: Let us anticipate the coming of Christ’s eternal world

**Congregation: with wholeness, reconciliation and plenty for all.**

Liturgist: Let us wait in expectation for the day

**Congregation: when God’s glory is revealed in all its fullness.**

*Note: The Congregation should please stand, if able to do so.*

**\*Hymn No. 196: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus....HYFRYDOL**

*Note: The Congregation may please be seated.*

**Lighting of the**

**Advent Wreath Candle** ..... Robert and Laurel LeSuer

Lighting the Advent wreath originated in Germany, based on a Roman custom of the ceremonial entrance of a ruler to a province or city as his “advent” (from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “arrival”). One candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent, two are lit the second Sunday, etc. Each of the candles has special significance. The final candle, the Christ candle, is lit on Christmas Eve.

Liturgists: Today we relight the three candles of the Advent Wreath—the candle of Hope, the candle of Peace, and the candle of Joy. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of Love.

Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving his most precious gift, his only son.

In John 13:34 Jesus said: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

*(...continued over...)*

**Congregation: For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.**

*Note: The Congregation may please remain seated for the reading of Scripture.*

**Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 8:22-36 ...Samuel Ruggiero**

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

*Note: We will have A Moment for Children only if two or more children are present in the Worship Service.*

**A Moment for Children** ..... Rev. Giffone

*Note: The Congregation should please remain seated for the following Hymn.*

**Hymn of Reflection: O Come, Let Us Adore Him.. ADESTE FIDELIS**

O come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

For he alone is worthy. For he alone is worthy.  
For he alone is worthy. Christ the Lord.

We’ll give him all the glory. We’ll give him all the glory.  
We’ll give him all the glory. Christ the Lord.

**Prayers of Confession**..... Thomas Brooks

We will begin by praying a unison prayer of corporate confession.  
Then, we will join in silently, confessing our personal sins.

**Lord Jesus Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved, but also our reluctance to extend love to others. We confess our readiness to accept Your forgiving love, but also our refusal to forgive others. We confess our eagerness to grasp Your offer of redeeming love, but also our resistance to follow You without question.**

**In this Season of Advent, please forgive our failure to respond as we should. Please come to us anew, and by Your grace assist us to receive You with joy, as the shepherds received You. To receive You with gratitude, as Simeon received You. To receive You with obedience, as Mary received You. To receive You with love, even**

*(...continued over...)*

**as You have loved us. We pray: “Even so, Come, Lord Jesus.” Amen.**

*Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.*

**Assurance of Pardon** (*responsively*) ..... Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

**Congregation: he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**

Liturgist: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

**Congregation: as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.** —Psalm 103:8-12  
**Thanks be to our God!**

*Note: The Congregation should please stand for the Hymn, if able to do so.*

**\*Response Hymn: Emmanuel**..... McGee

Emmanuel, Emmanuel  
His name is called Emmanuel  
God with us, revealed in us  
His name is called Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel  
His name is called Emmanuel  
God with us, revealed in us  
His name is called Emmanuel

*Note: If able, the Congregation should please remain standing following the Hymn*

**\*Nicene Creed** ..... Thomas Brooks

**Trinity Hymnal: Page 846**

*Note: The Congregation should please remain standing, if able to do so.*

*(...continued over...)*

## After the Worship Service

We invite you to join us for a time of fellowship with coffee and cookies after the Worship Service in the rear of the sanctuary.

If you have any special needs in your life and you wish to have a time of personal prayer, please speak to Pastor Benj or to one of our Ruling Elders— Robert LeSuer, James Stahl, or Amy Stearns—and he or she will arrange for someone to meet with you today and pray with you.

## Monthly Prayer Focus for December

The season of Advent can often be a time of faith renewal. As we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, we can also prepare for a renewal of Christ in our hearts. During the month of **December, 2024**, please pray for the spirit of renewal to take hold in our hearts.

- Please pray that Christ will come afresh into each of our hearts, not just for the holiday season, but with a life changing renewal of thought, word, and deed.
- Please pray that as our family and friends gather, each of us will have an opportunity to tell someone about God's purpose in sending Jesus into the world, or to remind someone who has fallen away from the faith that Jesus came into the world for them.
- Please pray that there will be "Peace on earth and good will to all men." It is a huge concept, but please pray that each of us will have the courage to do our part in bringing about a spirit of peace. Maybe we will have an opportunity to exhibit God's love in a situation that could end up very differently without our example and witness to that Love.

## Daily "God Hunt" Sightings

It is our sincere hope that you are still going on a daily "God Hunt." Every day please look for one or more of the following:

- Any obvious answer to prayer, or...
- Any special evidence of God's care, or...
- Any help to do God's work in the world, or...
- Any unusual linkage or timing.

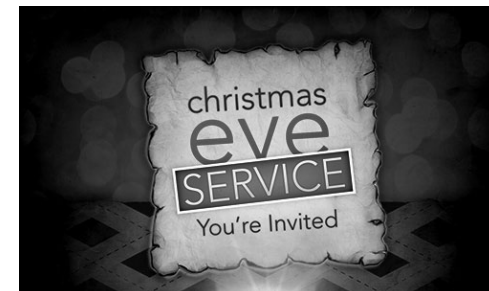
## Advent Daily Devotional

The Session of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (EPC) cordially invites you to join with us in experiencing a unique devotional walk through the Season of Advent, provided by the Coalition for Christian Outreach.

The Advent season is more than a countdown to Christmas. It is the Church's time in-between. During Advent, we remember the Word became flesh and laid in a manger, and we long for Jesus' return to reclaim God's beloved creation. We are grateful for the opportunity to travel this in-between time together. We invite you to join us!

Please sign up for this free Season of Advent Devotional by pointing your web browser to the following link:

<https://mailchi.mp/ccojubilee.org/advent2024>



## Christmas Eve Service

We invite you to join with your fellow members and friends of Redeemer Presbyterian Church at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve— Tuesday, December 24th. We will have a very special Christmas Eve Service of "Lessons and Carols" filled with music and readings that honor the birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please mark your calendar today and plan to attend this family celebration.

Meeting at: Weis Library United Methodist Church  
6020 Heidler Road  
Fairview, PA 16415