

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2024

Worship Theme: “God listens intently to the fervent prayers of His people.”

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.

Prelude: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* arr. Patterson

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new.
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

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

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: I love the Lord, for He heard my voice;
He heard my cry for mercy.

**Congregation: Because He turned His ear to me,
I will call on Him as long as I live.**

Liturgist: The cords of death entangled me, the
anguish of the grave came upon me;
I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.

**Congregation: Then I called on the name of the
Lord: "O Lord save me!" The Lord is
gracious and righteous; our God is full
of compassion.** —Psalm 116:1-5

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

***Hymn No. 218:**

Angels from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

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

Psalter Reading: Psalm 4.....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 ChildrenShirley Wilson

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

Hymn of Reflection: O Little Town of Bethlehem ... FOREST GREEN

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.

Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

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.

**Eternal God, You have called us into covenant, yet
our commitment is shallow and our love is**

(...continued over...)

weak. We place lesser concerns high on our list of priorities and give You whatever time and energy are left.

Please forgive our sins, O God, and turn us again toward Your purposes. Please reform our lives by renewing our dedication to You. By Your Holy Spirit, please give us a new sense of our calling, a new zeal in our faithfulness, a new compassion toward those in need, and a new appreciation for Your love for us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

May we always be open to the reforming and refreshing wind of Your Holy Spirit. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Congregation: For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

—Romans 10:9-11, 13

Thanks be to God!

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

***Response Hymn:** *There is a Redeemer*..... *Melody Green*

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son—
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank you, oh my Father, for giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit ’til the work on Earth is done.

Note: The Congregation should please remain standing.

(...continued over...)

***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 and remain seated for the reading of Scripture.

Epistle Reading: James 5:10-20 Martha Ruggiero

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

**A Time of Corporate Intercession,
Prayers of the People and
The Lord's Prayer** (*debts/debtors*) Thomas Brooks

Offering: Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child..... *arr. Carter*

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

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

***Offertory Hymn: Doxology** *OLD HUNDREDTH*

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** (*unison*) Thomas Brooks

We thank you, O Lord our God, Maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. We offer them and ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Note: If able, the Congregation should please remain standing for the Hymn.

(...continued over...)

***Hymn No. 199:**

See, Amid the Winter's Snow *SEE, AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW*
(Verses 1 and 4 through 6 only)

Note: If able, the Congregation should please remain standing.

***Benediction** (*unison, spoken to each other*) Thomas Brooks

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.** —Romans 15:13

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

Postlude: *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*..... arr. Carter

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

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 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.

Prayer Request Cards

If you would like our Pastor and Ruling Elders serving on Session to pray for you, please fill out a Prayer Request Card and place it in the Offering plate. These Prayer Request Cards are available on the Information Table at the rear of the sanctuary.

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@rpcerie.org

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

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

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.

