

**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 remain standing for the Hymn.*

**\*Hymn No. 498:** *Jesus! What a Friend to Sinners!* ..... *HYFRYDOL*

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

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

*Note: At the conclusion of the Benediction, the Congregation should please  
gather at the rear of the sanctuary for the Annual Meeting of the  
Congregation..*

**Postlude:** *Aina-a That Good News!*..... *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 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.

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

The Session has issued a call for the Annual Meeting of the  
Congregation immediately following the 11:15 a.m. regular Worship  
Service on Sunday, February 16, 2025, for the purpose of conducting  
such business as required by the ByLaws of Redeemer Presbyterian  
Church (EPC), including the election of a Ruling Elder, election of the  
Members-at-Large of the Nominating Committee, and a presentation of  
the Session-approved 2025 Budget.

**Nominations for Office**

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, scheduled for Sunday,  
February 16, 2025, the Nominating Committee will present the  
following Session-approved nominees for office:

**Ruling Elder** (*Class of 2028*): Zachary Harvey

**Nominating Committee Members-at-Large** (*Class of 2026*):

Jennifer Pontzer, Joshua Stearns, and Matthew Steinkirchner

**Monthly Prayer Focus**

During February, the Prayer Focus will be on the Coalition for  
Christian Outreach (CCO) and the three staffers that Redeemer  
supported during 2024. CCO is on 86 campuses across the country,  
sharing the Gospel with college students. They teach a vision for  
serving Jesus Christ in all of life: in their studies, jobs, communities,  
and families. Please pray:

- For a successful Jubilee conference, scheduled for February 21-23,  
2025. This is an annual gathering in Pittsburgh of students from  
across the country. They will attend worship services and listen to  
inspirational speeches and fellowship with other students during  
the weekend.
- For Sandy Starr Everhart and her ministry at Penn West  
University-Edinboro, particularly her relationship with the  
women’s basketball team.
- For Sam Van Eman and his leadership. Sam’s primary work  
involves creating and facilitating transformative opportunities for  
college students.
- For Ray Wiesen and his ministry at Penn State Abington campus.  
Ray was in the group of students from Edinboro, who worshipped  
with us while we rented space at St. Matthews Lutheran Church.

**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**

**REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*An Evangelical Presbyterian Church*



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

**Sunday Morning Worship  
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*February 16, 2025*

Worship Theme: “Jesus is a ‘friend of sinners,’ in that  
He has the power to forgive and to transform each  
of us. If we refuse to receive Jesus with love and  
devotion, we reject God’s purpose for ourselves.”

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:** *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*.....*arr. Berry*

*Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,*

*Come ye sinners, sick and sore;*

*Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity joined with pow’r.*

*He is able, he is able, he is willing, doubt no more;*

*He is able, he is able, he is willing, doubt no more.*

*Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.*

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

Liturgist: God, our God, how glorious is your  
name in all the earth!

**Congregation: Your glory is sung by all your  
creation!**

Liturgist: When we look to the heavens, the work  
of your fingers, the moon and stars, we  
wonder: “Who are we that you care for  
us and for this world?”

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

**Congregation: You are the God of life, crowning us with glory and honor to serve You all our days. O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!**

—adapted from Psalm 8

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

**\*Hymn No. 4:**

*All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above ..... MIT FREUDEN ZART*

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

**Psalter Reading:** Psalm 103:6-14 ..... Mark Kmecik

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** ..... Shirley Wilson

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

**Hymn of Reflection: His Mercy is More** ..... Boswell/Papa  
*The Giffone Family*

**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.

**Gracious God, Creator and Father, we confess that, in our sins, we often rebel against Your will for us. We have denied Your intentions. We have preferred our way to Christ's way. We have disobeyed Your commandments. We have worshipped ourselves and the possessions we have acquired.**

**Please forgive us. Please restore in us the knowledge that we belong to You. Please make us alive to serve You in faith, in obedience, and in joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.**

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

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

Liturgist: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**Congregation: And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade- kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the day of salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.**

—1 Peter 1:3-5

**Thanks be to God!**

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

**\*Response Hymn: Gloria Patri** ..... GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
World without end, Amen, Amen!

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

**\*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*) ..... James Stahl

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

**Epistle Reading:** Galatians 2:15-21 ..... Mark Kmecik

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

*Note: The Congregation may please be seated.*

**Sermon: "He Canceled the Debt of Both"** ..... Rev. Giffone

**Sermon Text:** Luke 7:36-50

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Remembrance · Communion · Hope*

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

**Offering: The Love of God** ..... arr. Halberg

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell.  
The guilty pair bowed down with care, God gave his Son to win;  
His erring child he reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.  
Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure, the saints' and angels' song.

*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.*

*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.*

**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.

(...continued over...)

**Annual “Per-Member Asking”  
for the Presbytery of the Alleghenies  
and for the EPC General Assembly**

At the beginning of every new year, the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, in concert with the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, votes to establish a budget for Denominational and Presbytery operations and expenses. This budget is largely supported by churches and congregations participating in a special stewardship program called “Per-Member Asking.”

For this year of 2025, the amount includes \$25.50 for the General Assembly and \$15.00 for the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, or a Total of \$40.50 for each member who is currently on the roll of each particular church as of the end of the previous year, in this case, on the roll as of December 31, 2024.

Both the Presbytery of the Alleghenies and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church General Assembly consider this “Per-Member Asking” amount as completely voluntary. While some churches are simply unable to fulfill this request, we at Redeemer Presbyterian Church have always taken this matter quite seriously and have purposely funded the full amount of this request through the generous giving of our members.

While Redeemer Presbyterian Church includes this total amount of the “Per-Member Asking” for our membership in our Annual Budget, it is especially helpful if each member, who is able to do so, will contribute the amount of **\$40.50 per member person—\$81.00 per member couple**—as a special “Per-Member Asking Love Offering” that is above and beyond whatever amount he, she, or they normally pledges or gives to the General Fund of Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

If you do decide to include the amount of this “Per-member Asking Love Offering” in your giving, please make a notation on the memo line of your check: “Per-Member Asking.”

Thank you for prayerfully considering this request. And, if you have any questions about this, please speak to any Ruling Elder, or to our Treasurer, Marykay Stahl.