

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. Burkholder

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

***Hymn No. 32: Great Is Thy Faithfulness** FAITHFULNESS

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

***Benediction** Rev. Burkholder

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

Postlude: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee arr. Helvey

** 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.

Our Guest Preacher

We welcome to our pulpit today and to celebrate Holy Communion, **Rev. Benjamin J. Burkholder, PhD.** Rev. Burkholder is a pastor-theologian who serves as a teaching elder in the Presbytery of the Alleghenies of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Most recently he served as Associate Pastor at North Park Church for eight years. At present, he teaches Bible classes at Gannon University and an Introduction to Philosophy course at La Roche University in Pittsburgh. Ben is married to Jen who works for the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) and they have two daughters, Moriah and Amelia.



Ash Wednesday Service

We invite you to plan to join us here in the sanctuary on **Wednesday, March 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** for our special **Ash Wednesday Service.**



Return to Daylight Savings Time

On next Sunday, March 9, 2025, we return to Daylight Savings Time at 2:00 a.m. We suggest you turn your clocks **ahead** one hour before retiring on Saturday evening.

Men's Breakfast

We invite all men to attend the Men's Breakfast on Saturday morning, March 8, 2025, at 8:30 in the Christ Center.

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
Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

March 2, 2025

Worship Theme: *"God continues to illustrate His faithfulness to His dearly loved chosen people, by meeting their needs in abundance."*

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:

Savior, Like a Shepherd/Sheep May Safely Graze....arr. Berry

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, let us early turn to thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, let us early turn to thee.

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: O sing to the Lord a new song;

Congregation: Sing to the Lord all the earth!

Liturgist: For behold, I am doing a new thing, says your God.

Congregation: And this we long to see and embrace.

Liturgist: Do not be afraid, says our God.

Congregation: We come before our God with expectancy and hope!

ALL: Come let us worship God.

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

***Hymn No. 598:**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

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

Psalter Reading: Psalm 78:17-39Matthew Steinkirchner

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: Day by DaySt. Richard of Chichester

Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.

Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.

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, and yet our commitment is often shallow and our love

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

Please forgive our sins, and help us to turn toward Your purposes with renewed determination. By the power of Your indwelling 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 renewed love for Jesus Christ our Lord. May we always be open to the reforming and refreshing moving of Your Holy Spirit. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

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

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness.

—1 John 1:9

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*) Robert LeSuer

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

Old Testament Reading:

Exodus 16:1-12Matthew Steinkirchner

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Note: The Congregation may please be seated.

Sermon: "Manna Continues" Rev. Burkholder

Sermon Text: Luke 9:10-17

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

Invitation to the Lord's Table..... Rev. Burkholder

Offering: *Break Thou the Bread of Life*..... arr. Beaney

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
As thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Throughout the sacred page I seek thee, Lord,
My spirit pants for thee, O living Word.

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. Burkholder

Note: The Congregation may please be seated.

Communion Opening Prayer and Words of Institution Rev. Burkholder

(...continued over...)

Monthly Prayer Focus for March

During the month of March, the Monthly Prayer Focus will be on the overseas ministry of our own transitional pastor, Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD. In addition to serving our congregation, Pastor Benj has taught Old Testament on the faculty of a South Asian theological seminary (name withheld for security reasons—ask him about it!) since 2022.

In 2024, Pastor Benj and his wife, Corrie, joined *EPC World Outreach* as part-time missionaries, to facilitate this graduate-level teaching, and to join *EPCWO*'s work of non-degree training in remote areas among least-reached people groups. The shortage of trained pastors for the global church is serious. According to one assessment: There are approximately 2.2 million evangelical churches in the world, and 85% are led by men and women who have no theological training. Pastor Benj is passionate about global theological education, to advance the glory of God, and to bless and strengthen the Western church. Read his thoughts on his personal website (<https://thinkhardthinkwell.com/2024/07/12/theological-education-in-missions/>), and read his personal trip updates (<https://us2.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=5d229a737609981c6cffa50c0&id=11532cb0b6>).

Please pray for:

- The ministry of organizations that promote evangelical theological education and pastor training, such as *Theologians Without Borders* (<https://www.theologianswithoutborders.org/>), *ICETE* (<https://icete.info/>), and *Shepherds Global* (<https://shepherdsglobal.org/non-formal-biblical-training/>).
- Our Denominational mission, *EPC World Outreach* (<https://www.epcwo.org/>), especially the *International Theological Education Network* (<https://itenglobal.org/>), the division of *EPCWO* in which Pastor Benj serves.
- The faculty, staff, students and graduates of the seminary at which Pastor Benj teaches, and those of many other seminaries and Bible institutes like it—in many languages!—that they would be faithful students and teachers of God's Word, and that churches would be strengthened.
- Safety and good health for Pastor Benj as he travels on March 6–7 and 21–22, and as he teaches the course: “Hebrew Exegesis of Isaiah 40–55.”
- Pastor Benj's family—Corrie, Daniel, and Elizabeth—while he is away.