

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpccerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

Worship Theme: *“Followers of Jesus find rest, as they trust in God’s presence.”*

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: *Children of the Heavenly Father*arr. Berry

Children of the heav’nly Father safely in his bosom gather,
Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e’er was given.

More secure is no one ever than the loved ones of the Savior;
Not yon star on high abiding nor the bird in home-nest hiding.

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Give thanks to God!

Congregation: Proclaim God’s goodness throughout all the world.

Liturgist: Let all gathered here, celebrate God’s transforming love.

Congregation: Let us offer our lives in service to others.

(...continued over...)

Liturgist: Thanks be to God for the blessings
which have been poured on us.

**Congregation: Lord, enable us to use our gifts to
serve You in Your world. Amen.**

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

***Hymn No. 310: Rejoice the Lord Is King..... DARWALL**

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

Psalter Reading: Psalm 46.....Matthew 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: Come, Holy Spirit..... Gaither

Come, Holy Spirit, we need you,
Come, sweet Spirit, I pray;
Come in your strength and your power,
Come in your own gentle way.

Come as a rest to the weary,
Come as a balm for the sore,
Come as a dew to our dryness;
Fill me with joy evermore.

Come, Holy Spirit, we need you,
Come, sweet Spirit, I pray;
Come in your strength and your power,
Come in your own gentle way.

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.

**Heavenly Father, You love us beyond compare and
You are faithful to us, even when we turn away
from You. You are patient, wise, caring, and just.**

(...continued over...)

We confess our many sins to You, and we admit that we are not worthy of Your love, nor do we deserve Your favor. We have ignored Your will, treated others with disdain, and failed to be grateful for Your mercy and blessings.

Please forgive us and restore us to a right relationship with You and with one another. In humility, we ask these things in Christ's precious name. Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Return to the Lord Your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Congregation: Thanks be to God, for his indescribable gift!

—based on Joel 2:13 and 2 Corinthians 9:15

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: 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)* Amy Stearns

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

Epistle Reading: Revelation 2:1-7.....Matthew Steinkirchner

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “At the Master’s Feet” Rev. Burkholder

Sermon Text: Luke 10:38-42

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

Offering: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*..... arr. Callahan

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

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 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**..... Rev. Burkholder

Note: The Congregation may please be seated.

**Communion Opening Prayer
and Words of Institution** Rev. Burkholder

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. 188:** *Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting*..... *TRANQUILITY*

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: *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**arr. Weston*

** 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.

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 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.

Please pray for:

- The ministry of organizations that promote evangelical theological education and pastor training, such as *Theologians Without Borders*, *ICETE*, and *Shepherds Global*.
- Our Denominational mission, *EPC World Outreach*, especially the *International Theological Education Network*, 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.