

**Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and
The Lord's Prayer.....** Amy Stearns

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 2:17 - 3:5 Mark Kmecik

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "We Do Not Know What to Do,
But Our Eyes Are On You" Rev. Giffone

Sermon Text: 2 Chronicles 17 - 20 (*various*)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

Offering: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came.....* arr. Manz

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary.
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

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.

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

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

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

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

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

(Please note that for Communion we use both
gluten-free and dairy-free bread or crackers.)

As you pass the bread/crackers, 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.*

(Please note that for Communion the juice
we use is non-alcoholic grape juice.)

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

***Hymn No. 162:**

Of the Father's Love Begotten DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
(Verses 1, 2, and 5 only)

Benediction Rev. Giffone

Postlude: *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus* arr. Larkin

Pastor: Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD
pastor@rpcerie.org/724-221-2595

Minister of Music and Worship: Thomas Brooks

Accompanist: Shirley Wilson

Ruling Elders: Robert LeSuer, Amy Stearns, Zachary Harvey

Ways to Give to Redeemer:

- Offering Plate
- Mail: RPC Treasurer, c/o 115 W Lakeview Blvd., Erie, PA 16508
- Online: <https://www.rpcerie.org/give.html>

To contact the church: info@rpcerie.org



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Worship Theme: "As we long for God's arrival during the
Season of Advent, we are reminded of our powerlessness
apart from Him. We receive salvation only when we look to
Him and look for Him."

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

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

Prelude: *God of Our Fathers.....* Marco D. Reyes and Mitch Glaser
Rev. Giffone, soloist

God of our fathers, Ruler of the heavens,
King over all the earth, Almighty God.

Power and strength are in thy hands, O Lord—Who can stand against Thee?
Should evil come against us, You are there, O Lord.

In the day of our distress, We will look to Thee;
For Thou art the Almighty God, We put our hope in Thee.

Power and strength are in thy hands, O Lord—Who can stand against Thee?
Should evil come against us, You are there, O Lord.

(...continued over...)

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Connection/Request for Prayer

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

I'd like: Call from the pastor Prayer for:

(...continued on other side...)

Call to Worship: (*responsively*) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Our souls magnify the Lord!

Congregation: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

Liturgist: The mighty One has done great things for us!

Congregation: Holy is God's name!

Liturgist: Let us worship God.

Congregation: For God is our Maker and Redeemer. From generation to generation God gives us mercy.

***Hymn No. 197:** *Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People.....THIRSTING*
(Sung to an alternate rhythm)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle The Stearns Family

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.

Liturgist: Last Sunday, we lit the first candle, the Candle of Hope. We light it again today to remind us that Christ is coming to fulfill God's promises.

Liturgist: Today, we also light the second candle, the Candle of Peace. The prophet Isaiah said: "Comfort, comfort my people" to a nation anxious about invasion and exile, as he foretold the coming of the Prince of Peace.

(...continued over...)

(please tear off here)

(...continued from other side...)

Today our world is still filled with violence and war, abuse and ill will, where in our communities and country we are torn apart. We fear for our own safety.

Liturgist: But God's promise comes to us from Psalm 4:3, where He declares: "Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; and he will hear us when we call to Him"—and in verse 8 that: "God alone makes us dwell in safety."

Congregation: Christ is our only hope, and our peace is found through Him.

Liturgist: We light this candle to remind us of Jesus' life-giving peace to all who trust and obey his commandments. We light it to remember that He is the Light of the world.

Liturgist: We light it to remember that he directed us, in Matthew 5, when he said: "You are the Light of the world, let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."

Congregation: The Light of His love brings peace. Let us bring His light to all we meet, that we may share His peace with others. Jesus is the Prince of Peace and our hope for everlasting peace.

***Gospel Reading:** Luke 1:68-79 Mark Kmeck

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

Hymn of Reflection: *Make Way* Kendrick

Make, way, make way, for Christ the King in splendor arrives.
Fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.
Make way, Make way, for the King of Kings,
Make way, Make way. And let his kingdom in.

(...continued over...)

He comes the broken hearts to heal, the pris'ners to free. The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.

Make way, Make way, for the King of Kings,
Make way, Make way. And let his kingdom in.

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.

We need You to speak to us, O God, because we have, each in our own way, forgotten Your law and forgotten Your love for us. We are in need of Your deliverance because we have, too often, given ourselves to powers and practices that would destroy us. We are lost and in need of rescue. We confess our sins to You, O God.

Come Lord Jesus. Please forgive us and restore us, guide us and deliver us, teach us and renew us. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon (*responsively*) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

Congregation: in whom we have redemption, and the forgiveness of sins.

—Colossians 1:13-14

Thanks be to God!

***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

***Passing of the Peace** Thomas Brooks

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

(...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 wish to have a time of personal prayer, please speak to Pastor Benj or to one of our Ruling Elders—Zachary Harvey, Robert LeSuer, or Amy Stearns.

Monthly Prayer Focus for December

The Season of Advent is a time to reflect on the idea of “Immanuel, God with us.” The December Prayer Focus gives us an opportunity to put away the hustle and bustle of this season and reflect on God’s gift to humanity. As you pray, please consider:

- What love did it take for Jesus to set aside His divinity and to humble Himself by taking on human form as a baby and then grow to adulthood and sacrifice Himself for us?
- The shepherds in the field tending their flocks. They were poor in a material sense and low on the social scale, but God chose them to receive the announcement of the birth of Jesus Christ. Be sure to spread the Good News to people with whom you interact that “God is with us.”
- At this time of gift giving, be sure to follow Christ’s example and share your bounty with those who are less fortunate.
- To ask God to continue to bring “Peace on earth and good will to all men.” It is a huge ask, but pray that you can have the courage to do your part. Maybe you will have an opportunity to exhibit God’s love in a situation that could end up very differently without your example and witness to that God-breathed love.



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—Wednesday, 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.