

***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.”*

Note: The children attending Children’s Church may be go to their classroom.

**Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and
The Lord’s Prayer**..... Zachary Harvey

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.

***Gospel Reading:** Luke 10:25-37.....Marykay Stahl

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

Sermon: “The Good Samaritans” Rev. Giffone
Sermon Text: 2 Chronicles 28:1-15

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

Offering: *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*arr. Dillon

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came a flowret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

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’nly 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. 198:** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*.... TRURO
(Verses 1, 5, and 6 only)

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone

Postlude: *Savior of the Nations, Come*.....arr. Keesecker

Pastor:Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD
pastor@rpccerie.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.rpccerie.org/give.html>

To contact the church: info@rpccerie.org



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpccerie.org>

**Sunday Morning Worship
Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025**

Worship Theme: “*God has regard for the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed. Though our world is filled with chaos and oppression, we can be confident that the Creator-God controls the times and seasons, and that He responds to our cries with mercy and justice.*”

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

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

Prelude: *Of the Father’s Love Begotten*arr. Rodriguez

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore him; Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

(...continued over...)

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: We have needed the Light of Christ:

Congregation: **As it shines through our darkest moments.**

Liturgist: We have seen the Light of God:

Congregation: **As it illuminates the joys and blessings of our lives.**

Liturgist: We have felt the Light of the Holy Spirit:

Congregation: **As it moves and guides us on our path.**

***Hymn No. 194:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel ... VENI EMMANUEL*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath CandleRobert and Laurel LeSuer

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: Over the last two weeks we have lit the Candles of Hope and Peace. We relight them now to remind us that our hope and our peace is in the Lord Jesus Christ. He came to us two thousand years ago and has promised that He will come again to bring life-giving hope and peace to the world. But now, He has also offered us great joy, through the comfort and ministry of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within all who believe.

.....*(please tear off here)*.....
(...continued from other side...)

Liturgist: In John chapter 15:11, Jesus said: “I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” His joy was the very joy of God. He promises to put that into us—that is what the Holy Spirit does. He pours out the love of God in our hearts and with it the joy of God. This is “great joy” and cannot be taken away. It is indestructible.

—based on John Piper, *The Dawning of Indestructible Joy*

Liturgist: Today, as we light the third candle of the Advent Wreath, the pink candle of Joy, we remember the angel’s words to the shepherds: “Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people.”

Liturgist: Joy comes to us from God, who has indwelt us and has liberated us from eternal death and sadness. God has given us hope, peace, and joy because He has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

—based on Romans 5:5

Congregation: **Though we have not seen Him, we love Him and even though we do not see Him now, we believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for we will receive the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls.**

—adapted from 1 Peter 1:8-9

Psalter Reading: Psalm 102:13-22Marykay Stahl

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:

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You? Gehrhardt/Teschner

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

(...continued over...)

Love caused your incarnation, love brought you down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling that led you to embrace
In love all loves excelling our lost and fallen race.

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.

Lord Jesus, we come humbly before You to confess our sins. We have not kept watch for Your coming. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have run on ahead of You and have not waited to find Your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.

Please forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to patiently wait, in order to know Your perfect will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Lord, please help us to work and watch for Your coming. Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: The Lord, your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory.

Congregation: **He will rejoice over us with gladness, he will renew us in his love; He will exult over us with loud singing.**

—adapted from Zephaniah 3:14-18

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

(...continued over...)

After the Worship Service

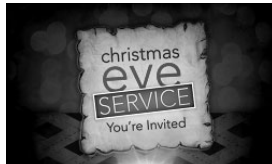
We invite you to join us for a time of fellowship with coffee and cookies after the Worship Service in the rear of the sanctuary.

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.