

***Carol:** *Silent Night, Holy Night..... STILLE NACHT*
(All verses)

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King:
"Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born."

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone
At the conclusion of the Benediction, the Congregation is dismissed.

Postlude: *Noël Nouvelet* arr. Lantz



(...continued over...)

We invite you to join us each Sunday morning
at 11:15 for our Worship Service.

*The stabled oxen lend their ears
to hear the cries of our Savior's birth.
His parents look in wonder at the miracle God has wrought,
fulfilling the promise men long have sought.
On a nearby hill the shepherds quake,
as a choir of angels thunders with praise.
Come to the manger, of rough wood hewn.
Come and see the Messiah's face.
Come this night to the empty tomb.
Grasp the joy of salvation's grace.
Look expectantly, wait with hope.
Know that the Christ will return again.
All you whom God has named His ones,
praise His gift of heavenly love.*

—Dan Carroll Williamson

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>

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REDEEMER **P**RESBYTERIAN **C**HURCH
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

Worship Theme: *"The long period of waiting, in eager anticipation, is over. At long last, our Savior is born."*

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

Gathering Music: *Angel Carols* Larson

Welcome Thomas Brooks

Prelude: *Appalachian Yuletide* Forrest

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus by Savior did come for to die
For poor orn'ry people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

Call to Worship: (responsively) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Hear us, O shepherd of Israel. You lead
Your people gently and kindly.

Congregation: You sent us Your light and Your
salvation.

Liturgist: Hear us and restore us, Lord God
Almighty. Help us to hear You and know
You are here.

Congregation: Jesus Christ is our Lord, our light
and our salvation. Let us praise and
worship Him together.

***Carol No. 208:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* *ADESTE FIDELES*
(all verses)

(...continued over...)

Bidding Prayer and

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors).....Thomas Brooks

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.

The First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15.....Dean Wilson

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed
of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

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

Carol No. 162: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
(verses 1 and 2 only)

The Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18Thomas Brooks
*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his
seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.*

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

***Carol No. 194:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.....VENI EMMANUEL
(verses 1 and 2 only)

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7Martha Ruggiero
Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

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

Carol No. 194: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.....VENI EMMANUEL
(verses 3, 4 and 5 only)

The Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-4Amy Stearns
The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

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

Carol No. 201: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*St. Louis
(all verses)

(...continued over...)

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38.....Lisa Gordon

The Angel Gabriel greets the virgin Mary and foretells the birth of Jesus.

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

Carol No. 221: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*Es IST EIN Ros
(verses 1, 2, and 5 only)

Special Offering: *Still, Still, Still*.....Carter

(This Special Offering on Christmas Eve
will support the Erie City Mission.)

Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill!
The Virgin's tender arms enfolding,
Warm and safe the Child are holding.
Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.

The Sixth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-24Jennifer Pontzer

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

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

***Carol No. 203:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*MENDELSSOHN
(all verses)

The Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-20Joshua Stearns

The Shepherds go to the manger.

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

Carol No. 223: *While Shepherds Watched*

Their FlocksCHRISTMAS
(verses 1, 5, and 6 only)

The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12Laurel LeSuer

The Magi visit the Messiah.

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

Carol No. 226: *As with Gladness Men of Old*DIX
(verses 1, 2, and 3 only)

(...continued over...)

The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14Robert LeSuer

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

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

Scripture for MeditationDean Wilson

Isaiah 11:1-9

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

Christmas Eve Meditation:

"I Pledge Allegiance—to My Stepson"Rev. Giffone

Presentation of the Christ CandleThomas Brooks

Liturgist: Break forth, O heavenly Light and reign
from age to age. Shine forever and let no
more greed or hatred rule in our hearts.

Congregation: *Illumine and save all creation. You
outshine all lights, even the stars and
the sun.*

Liturgist: As I light the Christ Candle, it
symbolizes how Christ has brought His
light to each of our lives.

Congregation: *As we light our candles, may we bring
Christ's light into the world in which
we live.*

*Note: As led by our Pastor, the Congregation should please stand, if able to do
so, move to the front of the church, and gather around the candelabra for
the Lighting of the Congregational Candles, for the singing of the Carol,
and for the Benediction.*

***Instructions for Lighting of the Candles** ..Thomas Brooks

(For safety, in order to pass the flame from one candle
to another, please hold the lighted candle upright and
tip the unlighted candle to the lighted candle.)

***Lighting of the Congregational Candles**

We light these candles to signify the coming of Christ, the Light of the world.

(...continued over...)