

Offering: God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen.....arr. Charter

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
 Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day.
 To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray,
 O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
 O tidings of comfort and joy.

***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 (unison).....Thomas Brooks**

We thank you, O Lord our God, Maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. We offer them and ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn No. 199:**

*See, Amid the Winter's Snow*SEE, AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW
 (Verses 1 and 4 through 6 only)

***Benediction (unison, spoken to each other).....Thomas Brooks**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. —Romans 15:13

Postlude:

Variation on "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child".....Kensecker

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 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.

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

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**Sunday Morning Worship
First Sunday after Christmas**

December 28, 2025

Worship Theme: *“God listens intently to the fervent prayers of His people.”*

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

**Welcome, Announcements, and
Introduction to Worship.....Thomas Brooks****Prelude: O Little Town of Bethlehem.....arr. Pinkston**

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given!
 So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
 No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today..
 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

(...continued over...)

 (please tear off here)

Connection/Request for Prayer

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

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

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

Call to Worship: (*responsively*) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: I love the Lord, for He heard my voice;
He heard my cry for mercy.

Congregation: Because He turned His ear to me,
I will call on Him as long as I live.

Liturgist: The cords of death entangled me, the
anguish of the grave came upon me;
I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.

Congregation: Then I called on the name of the
Lord: "O Lord save me!" The Lord is
gracious and righteous; our God is full
of compassion.
—*Psalm 116:1-5*

***Hymn No. 218:**

Angels from the Realms of Glory *REGENT SQUARE*

Psalter Reading: Psalm 4 Laurel LeSuer

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 Shirley Wilson

(...continued over...)

(please tear off here)

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

Hymn of Reflection: *Love Has Come!* *Ken Bible*

Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises,
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come share in the wonder;
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers:
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

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,
yet our commitment is shallow and our love is
weak. We place lesser concerns high on our list of
priorities and give You whatever time and energy
are left.**

**Please forgive our sins, O God, and turn us again
toward Your purposes. Please reform our lives
by renewing our dedication to You. By Your 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 new appreciation for
Your love for us in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**May we always be open to the reforming and
refreshing wind of Your Holy Spirit. We pray
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

(...continued over...)

Assurance of Pardon (*responsively*) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus
is Lord," and believe in your heart that
God raised him from the dead, you will
be saved.

Congregation: For it is with your heart that you
believe and are justified, and it is with
your mouth that you confess and are
saved. Anyone who trusts in him will
never be put to shame. Everyone who
calls on the name of the Lord will be
saved.

—*Romans 10:9-11, 13*

Thanks be to God!

***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!

***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."

Epistle Reading: James 5:10-20 Laurel LeSuer

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

**A Time of Corporate Intercession,
Prayers of the People, and
The Lord's Prayer** (*debtors/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.

(...continued over...)