

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. 230:  
*Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor* ....A FRENCH CAROL

\*Benediction ..... Rev. Giffone

Postlude: *Noel Nouvelet* ..... arr. Carter

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 January

In January, we celebrate the Epiphany. God led the three Kings by a star to find and worship the Christ child. The Bible is full of stories of God leading people to do miraculous things because they felt God’s leading: Noah, Abraham, and Paul to name a few. As you pray this month, please consider the following:

- Lord, what are you asking of me? Please make it clear. Please give me an unmistakable sign of what You want me to do. I am truly listening and ready to follow Your leading.
- Please give me courage, Lord. I am leaning on You for the strength to do what You are asking of me. Please give me energy and clarity of purpose to follow Your leading.
- Focus on the first step to follow God’s leading. Ask: “Is this the right way? Please open the door to help me get this done.” If it is the proper first step, the next steps will become clear.
- God will not ask you to do more than you can handle. Ask Him for the protection of your health and mental state. Some projects can extract a cost from both of those.
- And, remember, whatever God asks us to do is for His glory, not ours.

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](mailto:info@rpcerie.org)



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship  
Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026

Worship Theme: “The cruelty of Herod and the suffering of the people of ancient Bethlehem point us to the need for God’s justice and salvation. The faith of the Magi from the East reminds us that salvation in Christ is for all peoples.”

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

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

Prelude: *Coventry Carol*..... arr. Carter

(This ancient Carol, named for the plays presented in 15th century England for royalty, is sung by the grieving women of Bethlehem after Herod’s ruling that all boy babies be killed.)

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, bye bye, lully, lullay.  
Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day  
His men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.  
Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, bye bye, lully, lullay.

(...continued over...)

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: This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Congregation:** **We will be glad and rejoice in it.**

Litugist: This is the year that the Lord has begun.

**Congregation:** **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Litugist: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning.

**Congregation:** **Great is your faithfulness.**

Liturgist: The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to those who seek him.

**All:** **Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.**  
—from Jeremiah 3:22-25

**\*Hymn No. 219:** *All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord ....CANONBURY*  
*(Verses 1, 4, and 5 only)*

**New Testament Reading:** Revelation 12:1-6 ..... Lisa Gordon

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:** *As With Gladness Men of Old.....DIX*

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;  
*(...continued over...)*  
-----*(please tear off here)*-----  
*(...continued from other side...)*

So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin’s alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to thee, our heav’nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev’ry day keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

**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.

**O God, as we confess our many sins to You, we acknowledge that we live as if Your Light had never defeated the darkness in the world, or the darkness in us. We confess that we ignore the gift of Christ, whom You sent to be among us. We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season, and we do not yearn for His birth to be a reality in each moment of our lives.**

**Lord, You came to us in the fullness of time. Please forgive us for not opening our eyes to Your coming. It’s now time that we prepare for Your return.**

**Let the earth ring forth with songs of our praise. Let Your light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of Your love. Indeed, let Christ come into the fullness of our time. We pray in His great name. Amen.**

*Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.*

**Assurance of Pardon** *(responsively)* ..... Thomas Brooks

Liturgist; But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.  
—Galatians 4:4-5

In Jesus’ name, the Lord our God forgives our sins this day and every day, this year and every year.

**Congregation:** **What is over is done. God gives us grace for what is to come. 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 common greeting: “May the peace of Christ be with you.”  
And the reply: “And, also with you.”*

**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.

**\*Gospel Reading:** Matthew 2:1-23 ..... Lisa Gordon

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

**Sermon:** “Weeping for Rachel’s Children” ..... Rev. Giffone  
**Sermon Text:** Matthew 2:1-23 and Jeremiah 31:10-20

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Remembrance · Communion · Hope*

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

**Offering:** *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* ..... arr: Carter

O Morning Star, how fair and bright  
thou beamest forth in truth and light!  
O Sovereign meek and lowly!  
Thou root of Jesse, David’s Son,  
my Lord and Savior, thou hast won  
my heart to serve thee solely!  
Thou art holy, fair and glorious, all victorious,  
Rich in blessing, rule and might o’er all possessing.