

***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. 646: Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts** QUEBEC

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone

Postlude: The Church's One Foundation arr. Tornquist

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.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Session has issued a call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation immediately following the 11:15 a.m. regular Worship Service on **Sunday, February 15, 2026**, for the purpose of conducting such business as required by the ByLaws of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (EPC), including the election of a Ruling Elder, election of the Members-at-Large of the Nominating Committee, and a presentation of the Session-approved 2026 Budget.

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>

To contact the church: info@rpcerie.org



REDEEMER **P**RESBYTERIAN **C**HURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

**Sunday Morning Worship
Second Sunday after Epiphany**

January 18, 2026

Worship Theme: *"In a culture marked by tribalism and transactional loyalty, Christ summons His people to love our enemies, as He loved us and gave Himself for us."*

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

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

Prelude: Eternal Life Dungan/St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;

Where there is hatred let me sow love,

Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand,

To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pard'ning that we are pardoned;

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

(...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: Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

Congregation: See, the darkness covers the earth and the thick darkness is over the people,

Liturgist: But the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

Congregation: Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

—Isaiah 60:1-3

***Hymn No. 38: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise** JOANNA

Epistle Reading: 1 John 3:11-18 Jennifer Pontzer

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 Breath of Life Head

O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and pow'r,
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit your church to meet this hour.

(...continued over...)

(please tear off here)

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

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
While harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
Equip your church to spread the light.

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.

Father, we know that contentment with godliness is of great benefit. It brings about a lasting peace and a grateful heart that only You can give.

As we come humbly to You to confess our sins, help us to not focus so much on the material possessions that we lose sight of that which is of vital importance. May the character of our souls and the fruit of our actions be of much greater importance than the perishable goods that capture our attention.

We look to You for proper balance in the things with which You have blessed us and the attitude in which we receive these good things from Your hands. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon (*responsively*) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

Congregation: If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

—1 John 1:5-7

Thanks be to God for His wondrous gift!

(...continued over...)

***Response Hymn: Gloria Patri** GREATEST

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 Robert LeSuer

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:

Leviticus 19:1-4, 15-18, 33-34 Jennifer Pontzer

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon:

"Don't Even the Gentiles Do the Same?" Rev. Giffone

Sermon Text: Matthew 5:1, 43-48

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Remembrance · Communion · Hope

Invitation to the Lord's Table Rev. Giffone

Offering: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me arr. Ham

I want Jesus to walk with me.
I want Jesus to walk with me,
All along my pilgrim journey,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

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.

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Nominations for Office

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, scheduled for Sunday, February 15, 2026, the Nominating Committee will present the following Session-approved nominees for office:

Ruling Elder (Class of 2029): Robert LeSuer

Nominating Committee Members-at-Large (Class of 2027):

Nathan Heinrich, Jennifer Pontzer, and Joshua Stearns



“Souper Bowl of Caring”

On Sunday, February 8, 2025, we will collect monetary donations to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania. The money collected will provide food to those in need within the eleven counties of northwest Pennsylvania.

Sermon Notes