

# REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

---

## Sunday Morning Worship Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 2026

Worship Theme: *"In a culture of sarcasm, criticism, and piling-on, God wants His people to be known as those who speak the truth firmly when necessary, but in love and charity, for the benefit of others and for His glory"*

---

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

---

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

**Prelude:** *Holy, Holy, Holy*.....arr. Weston

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty,  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

(...continued over...)

----- (please tear off here) -----

### 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: God of Light, You brought forth light as  
Your first act of creation.

**Congregation: You brought forth light and darkness did  
not overcome it.**

Liturgist: You brought forth light in the form of Your  
Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to shine  
the light of hope in a world of darkness and  
despair.

**Congregation: You have called us to shine with Your  
light, and You have called us to bring  
Your light to the world.**

**\*Hymn No. 398:**

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* ..... *LUX PRIMA*

**Old Testament Reading:**

Proverbs 11:11-21 ..... Matthew Steinkirchner

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: *I Then Shall Live*..... Sibelius/Gaither**

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven;  
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.  
I know my name is clear before my Father;  
I am His child, and I am not afraid.  
So greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;  
The law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion;  
I've been so loved that I'll risk loving too.  
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;  
I dare to see another's point of view.  
And when relationships demand commitment,  
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

## **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.

**God of grace, as we come to You confessing our sins,  
we recognize that You have given us Jesus, the Light of  
the world. But we confess that we have chosen darkness  
and cling to things that hide the brightness of Your love.  
Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life.**

**Please baptize us with Your Holy Spirit, that forgiven  
and renewed, we may preach Your Word to the nations  
and tell of Your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ,  
our Lord and our Light forever. Amen.**

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

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

**Liturgist:** Christ, the true light that gives light to  
everyone, was coming into the world.

**Congregation** Yet to all who did receive him, to those  
who believed in his name, he gave the  
right to become children of God.

—John 1:9, 12

**Thanks be to God!**

(...continued over...)

**\*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!

**\*Apostles' Creed** ..... Thomas Brooks

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of  
heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son,  
our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born  
of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was  
crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The  
third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended  
into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the  
Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the  
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the  
life everlasting. 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."*

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

**Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and  
The Lord's Prayer**..... Rev. Giffone

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.

**Epistle Reading:** James 3:1-12 .....Matthew Steinkirchner

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation:** Thanks be to God!

**Sermon:**

"Giving Account for Every Careless Word"..... Rev. Giffone

**Sermon Text:** Matthew 5:21-22; 12:33-37

*(...continued over...)*

# The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Remembrance · Communion · Hope*

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

**Offering: *Cleanse Me*** .....Orr

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

*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.

(...continued over...)

---

Please use the baskets we have provided in alternate rows for disposal of the used communion cups

**Prayer following Communion** ..... Rev. Giffone

**\*Hymn No. 644:**

*May the Mind of Christ My Savior*.....*ST. LEONARDS*

**\*Benediction** ..... Rev. Giffone

**Postlude:** *Rejoice! Ye Pure in Heart*.....*arr. Larson*

---

---

### **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.

**Please see additional important  
Announcements  
in the Bulletin Insert.**

---

---

**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](mailto:info@rpcerie.org)

---

---



## 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.

## 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*):

Nathaniel Heinrich, Jennifer Pontzer, and Joshua Stearns



## "Souper Bowl of Caring"

On **Sunday, February 8, 2026**, 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.