

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 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 Joshua Stearns

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

(...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*.....*GRETOREX

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..... 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.

Epistle Reading: James 3:1-12Joshua Stearns

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'ly 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



Monthly Prayer Focus

During the month of February, the Session asks that you pray for the members of the Pastor Search Committee. They are tasked with finding a candidate to present to the Presbytery and eventually to the congregation as the next Pastor for Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

The members of the Pastor Search Committee include Joshua Stearns, who serves as the Chairman of the Committee, Matthew Steinkirchner, who serves as Secretary of the Committee, and Committee Members: Zachary Harvey, Robert LeSuer, Jaye Moelk, Marykay Stahl, and Dean Wilson.

Over the coming months, the Committee will prepare a *Church Information Form* (CIF)—an informational summary about Redeemer; receive *Pastor Information Forms* (PIFs) from individuals who respond to the CIF; listen to recordings of sermons from the candidates; and then finally meet and interview the candidates in person.

Please pray:

- That God will bring to light the candidate that He has already prepared to become our next Pastor, who will lead and grow Redeemer.
- For the Committee members to have a unity of spirit and purpose, as they go about their work.
- For the Committee members to have God-given discernment, so that they will understand the genuine needs of Redeemer.
- For the Holy Spirit's guidance in finding the right person to fill Redeemer's needs.
- For the families of Committee members to have patience because Committee work is time-consuming and requires time away from them.

Invitation for the Men's Breakfast

We invite all Redeemer men to join us in the Christ Center on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., for a Men's Breakfast. This will be a great time to share with one another, pray for each other, and build each other up as faithful disciples of Christ.

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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

Potluck Luncheon

After the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, we will have a potluck lunch. Please contact RE Amy Stearns about whether you would like to bring a main dish, a side dish, or a dessert:
412-973-9843.

Sermon Notes