

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Sixth Sunday after Epiphany- February 15, 2026

Worship Theme: *“In a world of decay and darkness, God sends His church of imperfect people into the world to be salt and light, preserving and brightening the world that He loves.”*

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

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

Prelude: *Sweet is the Name of Jesus.....* Handel/J. F. Wilson

Sweet is the Name of Jesus, the Name of our salvation,
Sing, O my soul, His praises, in wonder and adoration;
O sweet is the Name of Jesus, all precious Names above;
Name over all most worthy, the Name of redeeming Love.

Thou who all grace and glory art, How shall I rightly sing to Thee?
O what can a sinner bring to Thee, from out a burning heart?

Thee will I love, Lord Jesus, and joy in Thy salvation,
Honor and praise and bless Thee, in worship and adoration;
O sweet is the Name of Jesus, all precious Names above;
Name over all most worthy, the Name of redeeming Love.

(...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: Happy are the people whose God is the Lord.

Congregation: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Liturgist: Every day I will bless you, Loving God, and
praise your name forever.

Congregation: We worship the God who has conquered sin and death, Who is raised to eternal life, and Who claims us each one as brothers and sisters with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

***Hymn No. 53:**

Praise to the Lord the Almighty *LOBE DEN HERREN*

Psalter Reading: Psalm 48.....Mark Kmecik

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

Hymn of Reflection:

Breathe on Me, Breath of God Hatch/Jackson

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldest do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine, to do and to endure.

(...continued over...)

-(please tear off here)

(continued from other side)

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

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.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Thy ways, like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us.

But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare Thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore Thou them that be penitent, according to Thy promises declared unto mankind, in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

—*Prayer of Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556)*

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon (responsively) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: The Lord says: “Remember, I made you, I will not forget you.”

Congregation: “I have swept away your offences like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.” Sing for joy, for the Lord has redeemed us.

—adapted from *Isaiah 44:21-23*

Thanks be to God!

*Response Hymn: *Gloria Patri* *CREATOR EX*

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!

(...continued over...)

***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."

Commissioning Prayer..... Rev. Giffone

For those serving on the Co-Mission Commission

**Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and
The Lord's Prayer..... Zachary Harvey**

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: 1 Kings 19:1-18 Mark Kmecik

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "How Shall Its Saltiness Be Restored?".... Rev. Giffone

Sermon Text: Matthew 5:13-16; 9:35-38

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

Offering: *The Light of the World is Jesus..... arr. Cox*

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin;
The Light of the World is Jesus;
Like sunshine at noonday his glory shone in,
The Light of the World is Jesus.
Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me;
Once I was blind, but now I can see;
The Light of the World is Jesus.

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.

(...continued over...)

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.

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

Prayer following Communion *Rev. Giffone*

***Hymn No. 452: *Macedonia* *ALL SAINTS NEW*
(Verses 1, 3, and 4 only)**

Benediction *Rev. Giffone

Postlude: *Take the Name of Jesus With You* *arr. Berry*

After the Worship Service

After the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, we will have
a potluck lunch.

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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.

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

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

Sermon Notes