

# REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*An Evangelical Presbyterian Church*

<https://www.rpcerie.org>

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## ***The Beginning of Lent*** **Ash Wednesday Service**

**February 18, 2026**

Worship Theme: *“As the Season of Lent begins, we confront our spiritual health at the foot of the cross.”*

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

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**Welcome and Introduction.....** Thomas Brooks

**Prelude: Chief of Sinners.....** arr. Carter

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me.  
All my wants to Him are known, all my sorrows are His own.  
He sustains the hidden life safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford by your Spirit and your Word!  
When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die.

**Old Testament Reading:** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17.....Marykay Stahl

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

**Congregation:** **Thanks be to God!**

**Call to Worship:** *(responsively)* .....Thomas Brooks

**Liturgist:** We implore you on behalf of Christ, be  
reconciled to God.

**Congregation:** **God made him who had no sin to be sin,  
for us, so that in him we might become the  
righteousness of God.**

**Liturgist:** As we work together with him, we urge you also  
not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he  
says,

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

**Congregation:** “In the time of my favor I heard you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

—2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2

**\*Hymn No. 251:** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* ..... *ST. CHRISTOPHER*

**Prayers of Confession:** Psalm 51 (*responsively*) ..... Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

**Congregation:** according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Liturgist: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

**Congregation:** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Liturgist: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

**Congregation:** so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Liturgist: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

**Congregation:** Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Liturgist: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

**Congregation:** wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Liturgist: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

**Congregation:** Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

(...continued over...)

Liturgist: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**Congregation: Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

Liturgist: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**Congregation: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.**

Liturgist: Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

**Congregation: Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.**

Liturgist: You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

**Congregation: My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.**

Liturgist: May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

**Congregation: Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

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

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

Liturgist: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

(...continued over...)

**Congregation: For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned.**

—John 3:16-18a

**Thanks be to God!**

**Meditation:** “The Time Is Out of Joint” ..... Rev. Giffone

**Scripture for Meditation:** Matthew 5:2-12

**Imposition of Ashes** ..... Rev. Giffone

The Congregation should please stand and, using the center aisle, row by row move to the front of the sanctuary to receive the imposition of ashes.

Then, using the side aisles, please return to your seats after the imposition.

Once the Congregation returns to your seats, please spend a few moments, in quiet meditation, considering the significance of the Season of Lent and the ultimate sacrifice of our Savior’s suffering, death, and resurrection.

Then, please quietly leave the sanctuary, as a symbol of the beginning of the blessed Season of Lent.

**Postlude:** *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee* ..... arr. Dillon



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**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

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**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>

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**To contact the church:** [info@rpcerie.org](mailto:info@rpcerie.org)

