

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

Worship Theme: *"In a culture of flagrant, celebrated immorality, God summons His people to sexual purity—in body, mind and heart."*

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

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

Prelude: *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*.....arr. Berry

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.

I will arise and go to Jesus. He will embrace me in his arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance, ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.

I will arise and go to Jesus. He will embrace me in his arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

(...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, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

Congregation: Your glory is sung by all your creation!

Liturgist: When we look to the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars, we wonder—Who are we that you care for us and for this world?

Congregation: You are the God of life, crowning us with glory and honor to serve you all our days. O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! —adapted from Psalm 8

—adapted from Psalm 8

***Hymn No. 122: God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory.... ODE TO JOY**

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 5.....Nathaniel Heinrich

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

A Moment for Children Rev. Giffone

Hymn of Reflection: *Nothing But the Blood of Jesus* Lowry

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

O! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this I see: Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing, this my plea: Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

(...continued over...)

—(please tear off here)

(*continued from other side*)

O! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

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.

**Gracious God, our Creator and Father, we come
confessing our many sins to You. We confess that we
often rebel against Your will for us. We have denied
Your intentions for our lives. We have preferred
our way to Christ's way. We have disobeyed Your
commandments. We have worshipped ourselves and the
possessions we have acquired, instead of wholeheartedly
worshipping You.**

**Please forgive us. Please restore in us the knowledge
that we are Yours. Please make us alive to serve You in
faith, in obedience, and with great joy—through Jesus
Christ our Redeemer. Lord, and King. Amen.**

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon (responsively) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given
us new birth into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Congregation: **and into an inheritance that can never
perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for
us, who through faith are shielded by
God's power until the day of salvation
that is ready to be revealed in the last
time.**

1 Peter 1:3-5

Thanks be to God!

Response Hymn: *There is a Redeemer..... Melody Green

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son—
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank you, oh my Father, for giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on Earth is done.

(...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."

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.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.... Nathaniel Heinrich

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "For a Person's Brower History Is
Before the Eyes of YHWH"..... Rev. Giffone

Sermon Text: Matthew 5:27-32

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

Offering: Whiter Than Snow..... arr. Huggins

Lord, Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;

I want you forever to live in my soul.

Break down every idol; cast out every foe—

Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow.

Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

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.

(...continued over...)

***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. 615:**

Come, Ye Disconsolate, Where'er Ye Languish *ALMA*

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone

Postlude: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* *arr. Carter*

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.

(...continued over...)

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