

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Worship Theme: *“Do not judge, so that you won’t
be judged.”*

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

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

Prelude: Break Thou the Bread of Lifearr. Berry
(in a setting by J. S. Bach)

Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word!

Note: This hymn was written by a devout Christian, Mary A. Lathbury, one of the founders of the Chautauqua movement. She sat with her Bible overlooking Chautauqua Lake (NY) and thought of Jesus teaching His disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

(...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: Give thanks to God!

Congregation: Proclaim God’s goodness throughout all the world.

Liturgist: Let all gathered here celebrate God’s transforming love.

Congregation: Let us offer our lives in service to others.

Liturgist: Thanks be to God for the blessings, which have been poured out on us.

Congregation: Lord, enable us to use our gifts to serve You in Your world. Amen.

***Hymn No. 345:**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken..... *AUSTRIAN HYMN*

Old Testament Reading:

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14Laurel LeSuer

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

A Moment for ChildrenShirley Wilson

Hymn of Reflection: Day by Day.....*St. Richard of Chichester*

Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray;
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.

(...continued over...)

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

(...continued from other side...)

Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray;
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.

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.

Heavenly Father, You love us beyond compare and You are faithful to us, even when we turn away from You. You are patient, wise, caring, and just. We admit that we are not worthy of Your love or deserving of Your favor.

We come humbly to You, confessing our many sins. We have ignored Your will for our lives. We have treated others with disdain. We have failed to be grateful for Your mercy and blessings.

Please forgive us, once again. Please restore us to a right relationship with You and with one another. We ask these things, in Christ's precious name. Amen

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon (*responsively*) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Listen! In this man Jesus, there is forgiveness for your sins!

Congregation: **Everyone who trusts in him is freed from all guilt and declared righteous.**

—Acts 13:38-39a

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.

***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."*

(...continued over...)

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.

***Gospel Reading:** Matthew 18:21-35.....Laurel LeSuer

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon:

“Beware of Playing Judge Judy”... Rev. Benjamin J. Burkholder

Sermon Text: Matthew 7:1-5; 15:1-9

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

Offering: *Holy, Holy, Holy*arr. Schinske

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 pow'r, in love, and purity.

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** (*unison*) Thomas Brooks

Heavenly Father, every good gift comes from You. You give generously without refusing or reproaching anyone. May our gifts assist the preaching of the gospel, so that all can experience Your divine grace and mercy, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(...continued over...)

**Communion Opening Prayer
and Words of Institution Rev. Bukholder**

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. Burkholder

***Hymn No. 348:** *Jesus, with Thy Church Abide... GOWER'S LITANY*
(Verses 1, 5, 6, and 8 only)

***Benediction Rev. Burkholder**

Postlude: *How Firm a Foundation.....arr. Berry*

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 one of
our Ruling Elders—Zachary Harvey, Robert LeSuer, or Amy Stearns.

(...continued over...)

Monthly Prayer Focus

During the Season of Lent, we are given the opportunity to focus our daily attention on the examination of our personal spiritual condition. Such an examination will properly lead us to a comparison of where we are in our walk with God, and where we should be, as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Once we engage in this examination and comparison, we will very likely find ourselves seeking repentance for our failings as sin-bent human beings. And such repentance will then lead us to a consecration of our lives to devote ourselves to becoming more and more like Jesus.

This month, as you pray, please consider the following:

- Your personal spiritual condition. Ask yourself:
 - Do I show the love of Jesus Christ to others around me?
 - Am I committed to attending Worship services once a week?
 - Do I have a daily devotional time to read the Bible and pray?
 - Are my prayers routine, or do I pray from the heart with sincerity and passion?
 - Did I neglect a friend or neighbor who needed my help, because it was not convenient or the right time for me?
- More than likely, you know what you should be doing. How does your examination of yourself measure up to what you know you should be doing?
- Repentance means to admit you are wrong and ask forgiveness, but it is just as important to turn 180 degrees and go in the proper direction, following the examples shown to us by Jesus.
- With a contrite heart and renewed dedication, ask God for strength and commit to doing whatever your heart has shown you that you need to do.

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
