

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night,
I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.

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 HUNDRETH*

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

O God, we lay these gifts, and ourselves, at the foot of the cross. We pray that You would take what we have offered, and especially all of us, that the world may know the good news about Your son, Jesus, for Your glory. Amen.

***Hymn No. 355:** *We Are God's People* *SYMPHONY*

***Benediction** (*unison*) Thomas Brooks

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

—based on Philippians 4:7

Postlude:

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim.....*arr. Rodriguez*

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.

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.



**Sunday Morning Worship
Third Sunday in Lent**

March 8, 2026

Worship Theme: *"The call to be Christ's disciples is a call that necessarily brings people together who would otherwise not associate with one another. The Holy Spirit enables us to be peacemakers, as we share the good news and build church."*

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

Welcome, Announcements, and

Introduction to Worship..... Thomas Brooks

Prelude: *God of Grace and God of Glory**arr. Berry*
(in a setting by Bach)

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story; Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Set our feet on lofty places; Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces, pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

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Connection/Request for Prayer

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

I'd like: Call from the pastor Prayer for: Confidential

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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

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

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Let us worship God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ.

Congregation: We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!

Liturgist: Let us worship God as Christ’s ambassadors.

Congregation: Through us, and through our worship, may we announce the good news to all.

Liturgist: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Congregation: Praise God! We are reconciled, redeemed, and renewed.

—based on John 4:24 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

***Hymn No. 342:**

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation *REGENT SQUARE*

Old Testament Reading: Hosea 6 Lisa Gordon

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

A Moment for Children Shirley Wilson

Hymn of Reflection: *My Jesus, I Love Thee* *GORDON*

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine,
For thee all the follies of sin I resign.

My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus ’tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary’s tree.

(...continued over...)

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

I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, ’tis now.

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, we know that You love us beyond compare and that You are faithful to us, even when we turn away. You are patient, wise, caring, and just.

As we come to You, humbly confessing our many sins, we admit that we are not worthy of Your love, nor deserving of Your favor. We have ignored Your will. 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, for we ask this in Christ’s name. Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Return to the Lord Your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. In Christ, we are forgiven!

Congregation: Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! *—based on Joel 2:13; 2 Corinthians 9:15*

***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.

***Nicene Creed** Thomas Brooks

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through Him all

(...continued over...)

things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 go to their classroom.

Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and The Lord’s Prayer..... James Stahl

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.

New Testament Reading: Acts 16:25-34 Lisa Gordon

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Matthew’s Origin Story and What It Means for us Today” Zachary Harvey

Sermon Text: Matthew 9:9-13

Offering: *Here I Am, Lord* *arr. Howell*

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.

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