

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

Worship Theme: "Jesus teaches and models prayer
for His disciples."

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

Welcome, Announcements, and

Introduction to Worship Thomas Brooks

Prelude: Jesus, Priceless Treasure Zachau

*(Friedrich Zachau was a 17th century church musician in Germany.
Known as an organist and teacher, he is best known as
George Frideric Handel's first music teacher.)*

Jesus, priceless treasure, source of purest pleasure,
Truest Friend to me:
Ah, how long in anguish shall my spirit languish,
Yearning Lord, for thee?
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb!
I will suffer naught to hide thee,
Naught I ask beside thee.

(...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: I love the Lord, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy.

Congregation: Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live.

Liturgist: The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me; I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.

Congregation: Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord save me!” The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

—Psalm 116:1-5

***Hymn No. 101:** *Come, Thou Almighty King* TRINITY

***First Gospel Reading:** Mark 1:29-39 Lydia Kmecik

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

A Moment for Children Shirley Wilson

Hymn of Reflection:

What a Friend We Have in Jesus Scriven/Converse

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry ev’rything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry ev’rything to God in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge—take it to the Lord in prayer!

(...continued over...)

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

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

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

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, You invite us to live in Your image, but we confess our sins and acknowledge that too often we say one thing with our lips and actually do another thing with our lives.

Please help us to make our deeds fit our words and help us to make our conduct match our affirmation of faith. Please forgive us when we say that we will follow You into the world, yet we stay behind with our feet firmly planted in comfortable places. Please forgive us for any hypocrisy, and please forgive us for any neglect.

We humbly ask You to fill us with such gratitude that we cannot help but live and love differently. By the power of Your indwelling Holy Spirit, may we live our lives in Your image and see Your image in all those we meet. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon (*responsively*) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, and the new has come!

Congregation: **All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself in Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.**

—2 Corinthians 5:17-18

**Let us receive the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
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."*

**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.

***Second Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:5-15** Lydia Kmecik

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "Pray This Way" Rev. Donald D. Opitz, Ph.D.

Sermon Text: Matthew 6:5-15

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

Offering: O Thou, In Whose Presence..... *arr. Brunner*

O Thou, in whose presence my soul takes delight,
On whom in affliction I call,
My comfort by day and my song in the night,
My Hope, my Salvation, my All!

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** (*unison*) Thomas Brooks

Our God, You have given so many gifts to us, holding nothing back of Yourself. You have come among us in Christ Jesus to save us and make us new. We offer to You now our lives and the work of our hands, as represented by this offering. Please bless all we offer, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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. Opitz

***Hymn No. 642:** *Be Thou My Vision*.....*SLANE*

***Benediction** Rev. Opitz

Postlude: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* *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 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
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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

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