

\***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. 251:** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* ..... *St. CHRISTOPHER*

\***Benediction** ..... Rev. Giffone

**Postlude:** *And Can it Be?* ..... *arr. Halberg*

**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.

**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 com-  
parison, 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@rpccerie.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.rpccerie.org/give>



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

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**REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*An Evangelical Presbyterian Church*



<https://www.rpccerie.org>

**Sunday Morning Worship  
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*March 22, 2026*

Worship Theme: “*God’s chosen ones must stay close to Jesus.*”

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

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

**Prelude:** *Take Time to Be Holy* ..... *arr. Fettk*

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;  
Abide in him always, and feed on his Word.  
Make friends of God’s children; help those who are weak;  
Forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;  
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.  
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;  
Thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.

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

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

**Connection/Request for Prayer**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*(...continued on other side...)*

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

Liturgist: Lord, as we gather together, we acknowledge that we are a forgiven people.

**Congregation:** **May we, like You, be generous in offering forgiveness to others.**

Liturgist: You forgive us each day for the many ways we fall short of Your mercy.

**Congregation:** **Teach us to embody Your grace, Your love, Your mercy, and Your forgiveness to all those we encounter this day.**

**\*Hymn No. 263:** *Lift High the Cross* ..... *CRUCIFIER*

**Psalter Reading:** Psalm 130.....Matthew Steinkirchner

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

*Note: We will have A Moment for Children only if two or more children are present in the Worship Service.*

**A Moment for Children** .....Shirley Wilson

**Hymn of Reflection:** *Open our Eyes, Lord*..... *Cull*

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

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

-----*(please tear off here)*-----  
*(...continued from other side...)*

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Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see 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.

**Holy God, as we come to You humbly confessing our many sins, we thank You that You receive us, not according to our failing goodness, but according to Your overflowing grace. You receive us as we are. You show us what we can be. You have come to us in Jesus Christ to share our common lot and reconcile us to Yourself.**

**Please sweep over us with Your Holy Spirit. Please change us by Your love, that we may sing with joy before You, and live to Your glory in the world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

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

Liturgist: In his first letter John states: “I write to you so that you will not sin.

**Congregation: “But if anyone does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”** —1 John 2:1-2

**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 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.

**Epistle Reading:** Romans 8:6-11 .....Matthew Steinkirchner

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon:** “Where Do We Go From Here?” .....Dean K. Wilson

**Sermon Text:** John 15:1-11 and 26-27

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Remembrance - Communion - Hope*

**Invitation to the Lord’s Table**..... Rev. Giffone

**Offering:** *Near the Cross* ..... *arr. Ijames*

Jesus, keep me near the cross—there a precious fountain,  
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.  
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

*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.

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

# Speak, O Lord

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to re - ceive the food of Your  
 2. Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu -  
 3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your

ho - ly word. Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fash - ion us  
 -mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance  
 plans for us: truths un - changed from the dawn of time that will ech - o down

in Your like - ness; that the light of Christ might be seen to - day  
 of Your pu - ri - ty. Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see  
 through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on Your prom - is - es,

in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -  
 Your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can  
 and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till Your

-fill in us all Your pur - pos - es for Your glo - ry.  
 nev - er fail: let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.  
 church is built and the earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

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