

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Worship Theme: *“In a culture of performativity and virtue-signaling, truly God-honoring acts of mercy and piety must be accompanied by humble hearts.”*

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

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

Prelude: *This is My Father’s World*..... arr. Carter

This is my Father’s world, and to my list’ning ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father’s world, O let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world: the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav’n be one.

(...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: Awake, O harp and lyre! I will wake the dawn.

Congregation: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, I will sing to you among the nations.

Liturgist: For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens; Your faithfulness extends to the clouds.

Congregation: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory be over all the earth.

—Psalm 57:8-11

***Hymn No. 310:** *Rejoice the Lord is King* DARWALL

Old Testament Reading: Leviticus 23:26-32 Will Crosby

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 Rev. Giffone

Hymn of Reflection: *Change my Heart, O God* Espinosa

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true,
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the Potter, I am the clay,
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray;
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true,
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

(...continued over...)

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

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true,
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the Potter, I am the clay,
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray;
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true,
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

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.

God of the Risen Christ, as we approach You in humility, confessing our many sins, we come to You seeking the gift of Your grace. We cling to the promise of the resurrection that is made real to us in the miraculous presence of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Though we are eager to share in Christ’s victory, sadly we ignore Your call to walk with Him in His suffering, and Your call to be vulnerable and present to the world like He was. We admit that we desire the privilege of being called “Your children,” but shy away from bearing the costs of being Your faithful servants.

Please help us to experience the true joy of living our lives as part of Christ’s body—holy and dedicated to Your way. Please make us eager to give ourselves, and all that we have, to You—so that the world around us might know Your love. We pray in the name of Jesus our Redeemer, who challenges us by His example.

Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

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

Liturgist: Through the death and resurrection of Christ, our salvation is secure. Let us affirm this truth by reciting together 1 Peter 3:18-19:

Congregation: **For Christ died for sins, once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.**

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.

(...continued over...)

***Response Hymn: *Gloria Patri*..... GREATOREX**

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
World without end, Amen, 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..... 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.

Psalter Reading: Psalm 35:1-3, 11-18..... Sarah Crosby

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Prayer of Illumination: *Speak, O Lord*..... Getty/Townend

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds.
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged, from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace, we'll stand on Your promises.
And by faith, we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

**Sermon: "Your Father Who Sees in Secret Will
Reward You"..... Rev. Giffone**

Sermon Text: Matthew 6:1-4, 16-18

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Remembrance · Communion · Hope

(...continued over...)

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

Offering: *O Master, Let me Walk With Thee*..... arr. J. Schubert

O Master, let me walk with thee, in lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

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..... *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*
(Sung with an Alternate Tune)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

***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. 441: *Jesus Shall Reign..... *DUKE STREET*

(...continued over...)

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone

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

Monthly Prayer Focus

During the month of April, Session asks us to pray for each other. A list of members and regular attendees will be available on the center table at the back of the sanctuary. If you don't know some of the people listed, ask someone to introduce you and get to know them. As you consider each individual person, please pray:

- Giving God thanks for placing each of these individuals in your life.
- Asking God to strengthen the bond between the two of you, considering what you can share about yourself that will help build your friendship.
- Considering what you know about them:
 - Do they have problems or troubles where you could come alongside them and give them a friend to lean on?
 - Do you know if they have committed their lives to Jesus Christ? If not, please pray for opportunities to witness to them.
- Asking for God's continued blessing on their lives and families.
- Asking God to strengthen their faith, and to protect them from temptation.

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

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