

# REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

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## Sunday Morning Worship Seventh Sunday of Easter *Celebrating the Ascension of Our Lord*

May 17, 2026

Worship Theme: *“Christ sends us into the world—both individually and collectively.”*

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

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

**Prelude:** *Be Thou My Vision* ..... arr. Fettke

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
thou my best thought by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my battleshield, sword for my fight;  
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
Thou my soul’s shelter, thou my high tow’r,  
Raise thou me heav’nward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.

*(...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: O God, your constant love reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness extends to the heavens.

**Congregation:** **Your righteousness towers like the mountains, your justice is deeper than the sea.**

Liturgist: All find protection under the shadow of your wings. We feast on the abundance that you provide.

**Congregation:** **You are the source of all life, and in your light, we see light.** —based on Psalm 36:5-9

**\*Hymn No. 296:** *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name! ...CORONATION*

**\*First Gospel Reading:** Matthew 11:28-30.....Emily Kern

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

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

**Hymn of Reflection:** *Wonderful Words of Life* ..... Bliss

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;  
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life.  
Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty:  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life;  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

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

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

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

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Christ, the blessed One, gives to all, wonderful words of life;  
Sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life.  
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven;  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life;  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

**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.

**Almighty God, You are eternal, gracious, loving and steadfast. We come into Your presence knowing that Your mercy is beyond our deserving. None of us is worthy of Your tender care.**

**We confess before You our many sins, including the sins of self-righteousness, pride, and possessiveness. Please remove our blinders to our faults and increase our sensitivity to those around us. Please renew Your peace within us, that we may approach You with confidence and serve You with joy. We ask these requests through Your Son, our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

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

**Liturgist:** Brothers! 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:** *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."*

(...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.

**\*Second Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20 .....Emily Kern**

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: "Get on Board!" ..... Rev. James Leuenberger**

**Sermon Text:** Acts 1:6-8

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
*Remembrance · Communion · Hope*

**Invitation to the Lord's Table..... Rev. Leuenberger**

**Offering: *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song .....arr. Howell***

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,

To the church in faith assembled, to her midst as gift and sign:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

*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.*

(...continued over...)

**\*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, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**\*Offertory Prayer** (*unison*) ..... Thomas Brooks

**Lord, we lay these gifts, and ourselves, at the foot of the cross. We pray that You would take what we have offered, that the world may know the good news of Jesus for Your glory, and in His matchless name. Amen.**

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

**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.

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Please use the baskets we have provided in alternate rows for disposal of the used communion cups

**Prayer following Communion** ..... Rev. Leuenberger

(...continued over...)

**\*Hymn No. 341:**

*O Breath of Life, Come Sweeping through Us .. SPIRITUS VITAE*

**\*Benediction** ..... Rev. Leuenberger

**Postlude:** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*..... *arr. Larson*

**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**

This month we will pray for *EduNations* and its mission in Sierra Leone, West Africa. For many years, Redeemer has supported this mission to educate children in Christian schools and spread the Gospel. Construction is underway for the Mayatta Teachers’ Quarters to provide housing for teachers. *EduNations* “inherited” this neglected Primary School from the Mayatta Village leadership and has been working hard to upgrade and improve the quality of education in this very poor village. Other things to specifically pray for include:

- Praise that an 11-year-old student, Alhaji Kamara, recovered after a snake bite, thanks to anti-venom at Caring Hands Clinic.
- Praise that student, Mabinty Kamara, has recovered from typhoid, after receiving treatment in Makeni.
- Pray for Esther, a 5th grade student now in a safe home, after abuse. Pray for healing and for justice to be pursued.
- Pray for the family of Fatu Kamara, a 5th grade student, who recently passed away due to an unknown illness.
- Pray for the team in Sierra Leone, including the new Country Director, Kandeh Koroma, and Educational Secretary, Michael Turay, along with other staff, as they travel to each of the communities over the coming weeks. Pray for safety, wisdom, and encouragement in their work.

**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](mailto:info@rpcerie.org)

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