

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 23, 2026

Worship Theme: *"As we experience weariness and pain in a sin-marred world, God shares our weariness and our anger, and when we protest sin and injustice, and appeal to His covenant—we are behaving as His faithful children."*

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

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

Prelude: *Be Still, My Soul*.....arr. Berry

Be still, my soul; when dearest friends depart,
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
Then shall you better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

(...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 lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from?

Congregation: **My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Liturgist: He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will neither slumber not sleep.

Congregation: **The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.**

Liturgist: The Lord will keep you from all harm—

Congregation: **He will watch over your life.**

—Psalm 121:1-7

***Hymn:** *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA
(Please find the words to this Hymn in the Bulletin Insert)

Psalter Reading: Psalm 109 Lydia Kmecik

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

A Moment for Children Shirley Wilson

Hymn of Reflection: *Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord* Ramsey

Teach me thy way, O Lord; teach me thy way.

Thy guiding grace afford; teach me thy way!

Help me to walk aright, more by faith, less by sight.

In failure or success, teach me thy way.

(...continued over...)

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

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

When I am sad at heart, teach me thy way.
When earthly joys depart, teach me thy way!
In hours of loneliness, in times of dire distress,
In failure or success, teach me thy way!

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, Creator and Sustainer of Everything, we confess that we have sinned against You: some of our sins we know, and some are known only to You. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. Please have mercy on us and forgive us through the sacrifice of Your Son our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, that we may walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Name, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

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

He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

—Colossians 1:13-14

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!

***Apostles' Creed**..... Thomas Brooks

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the

(...continued over...)

**Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the
life everlasting. 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."*

**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.

***Gospel Reading:** Matthew 26:36-46 Lydia Kmecik

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "Look, YHWH, and See!" Rev. Giffone

Sermon Text: Lamentations (various)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

Invitation to the Lord's Table Rev. Giffone

Offering: *Abide With Me* arr. Fettke

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

*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..... *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.

***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. 646: *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts *QUEBEC*

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone

Postlude: *My Hope is in the Lord*..... *arr. Halberg*

(...continued over...)

After the Worship Service

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 August, we request each one in our congregation to pray, asking for God's wisdom and leading for Redeemer Church. Significant changes are coming to Redeemer, and we will need God's guidance. As Pastor Benj ends his transitional ministry with us, we are searching for a new pastor. We also have an opportunity to purchase a building, as a permanent location and home for our congregation. Both circumstances will require significant commitments by the congregation. Please pray for:

- God's leading, as we seek to be faithful disciples and exhibit His Kingdom here in Erie.
- Courage, discernment, and faith to follow that leading.
- The appropriate pastoral candidate to lead Redeemer, and that God will place that call on his or her heart.
- Open or closed doors, as Redeemer considers this current opportunity to purchase a building.
- Pastor Benj, giving thanks for his ministry among us, and asking God to give Pastor Benj a fruitful ministry in his next endeavor and calling.



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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God of Grace and God of Glory

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

2. Lo! The hosts of evil round us
Scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

3. Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
Pledged to set our captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!

4. Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of thy salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving Thee whom we adore,
Serving Thee whom we adore.

Cwm Rhondda

The Book of Lamentations

Lam	Features	Characters/Voices
1	22 verses, 66 (+1) poetic lines Acrostic	Daughter Zion, observer
2	22 verses, 66 poetic lines Acrostic	Daughter Zion, observer
3	66 verses, 66 poetic lines Triple-acrostic	"The Strongman" (<i>geber</i>)
4	22 verses, 44 poetic lines Acrostic	Daughter Zion, observer
5	22 verses, 22 poetic lines Non-acrostic (pseudo-acrostic?)	The people

Lam 1		Speaker	Addressee
1-8	...	Observer	General
9 (t)	Her uncleanness (<i>tum'ātah</i>) is in her skirts; she did not remember her end. And so she goes down wonderfully! She has no comforter. "Look, YHWH, at my affliction, for the enemy has become great!"		
10 (y)	...	Daughter Zion!	YHWH
11 (k)	All (<i>kol</i>) her people groan, searching for bread; They give their treasures for food to bring back the soul. "Look, YHWH, and see that I am despised!"	Observer	General
12 (l) -16	¹² "Is it nothing (<i>lôʾ</i>) to you, all you who pass by on the road? Look and see whether there is any sorrow like my sorrow..."	Daughter Zion!	YHWH Passersby
17	...	Observer	General
18-22	...	Daughter Zion!	Peoples
	²⁰ "Look (<i>r'ê</i>), YHWH, for I am in distress..."		YHWH
	...		

Continued over ...

Lam 2		Speaker	Addressee	Agent
1–9	...	Observer	General	YHWH
10 (y)	The elders of the daughter of Zion sit (<i>yēšbû</i>) on the ground and are silent; They have thrown dust on their heads and put on sackcloth; The virgins of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.			People (Silence!)
11 (k)	My eyes are exhausted (<i>kālû</i>) of tears; my stomach churns... ...because infants and babies faint in the streets of the city.	Prophet	Daughter Zion	People, Enemies, YHWH
12 (l) –19	¹² They cry to (<i>l^e</i>) their mothers, “Where is bread and wine?” ... ¹³ What (<i>mâ</i>) can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? ...			
20 (r) –22	²⁰ “Look (<i>r^eē</i>), YHWH, and see (<i>w^ehabbiṭâ</i>)! With whom have you dealt thus?” ...	Daughter Zion	YHWH	YHWH

Lam 3

10 (d)	...
11 (d)	He has turned aside my steps (<i>d^erākay</i>) and torn me to pieces; he has made me desolate.
12 (d)	He bent (<i>dārak</i>) his bow and set me as a target for his arrow ;
13 (h)	He drove (<i>hēḥî</i>) into my kidneys the arrows [lit. ‘sons’] of his quiver .
14 (h)	I have become (<i>hāyiṭî</i>) sport for all peoples, their song all day long.
15 (h)	...

19 (z)	...
20 (z)	My soul certainly remembers (<i>zākôr tizkôr</i>) [my affliction] and is bowed down within me.
21 (z)	But this (<i>zō’t</i>) I revive in my heart, and therefore I hope:
22 (ḥ)	The loyalty-love (<i>ḥasdē</i>) of YHWH—it is never exhausted, nor do his compassions ever end;
23 (ḥ)	They are renewed (<i>ḥ^adāšîm</i>) every morning; great is your faithfulness.
24 (ḥ)	...

Charts adapted from Giffone, “The Timeless, Unifying Rhetoric of Lamentations,” *Old Testament Essays* 25.3 (2012): 534–558 (hdl.handle.net/10520/EJC132563).