

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 30, 2026

Worship Theme: *"In our confusing world where the wicked often prosper and the righteous suffer, encountering and enjoying the true and living God in worship reorients our thinking and reorders our desires and priorities."*

** 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. Wolaver

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.

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
(...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...)

Congregation: I have set the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand, I will not
be shaken.

Liturgist: You have made known to me the path of
life;

Congregation: You will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

—Psalm 16:8, 11

***Hymn No. 2:** *O Worship the King*..... LYONS
(Verses 1, 2, 4, and 5)

Psalter Reading: Psalm 81..... Jennifer Pontzer

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

A Moment for ChildrenJoshua Stearns

Hymn of Reflection: *I Will Sing of the Mercies* Fillmore

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,

I will sing, I will sing.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known

thy faithfulness, thy faithfulness.

With my mouth will I make known

thy faithfulness to all generations.

(...continued over...)

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

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

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

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.

Please have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. According to Your abundant mercy, please blot out our transgressions. Please wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins.

For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You alone, have we sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless when You pass judgment. Indeed, we were born guilty, sinners when our mothers conceived us.

Please hide Your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Please create in us clean hearts, O God, and put new and right spirits within us. Please do not cast us away from Your presence, and please do not take Your Holy Spirit from us. We pray through Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us, even our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

—based on Psalm 51

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

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

Liturgist: God demonstrated his love for us in this:

Congregation: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

—Romans 5: 8-9

Thanks be to God!

(...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."*

**Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and
The Lord's Prayer**..... Robert LeSuer

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: Philippians 3:7-11 Jennifer Pontzer

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: "The Strength of My Heart and
My Portion Forever" Rev. Giffone

Sermon Text: Psalm 73

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

Offering: *'Tis So Sweet to Trust In Jesus*..... *arr. Lopez*

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word.
Just to rest upon his promise; just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er.
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more.

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. 30:** *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*..... ST. ANNE
(Verses 1 through 3, and 7)

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone

Postlude: *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* 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 September, we will continue to pray 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.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

We invite the men of Redeemer to join us for a Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday morning, September 12, 2026. Please see Joshua Stearns for information regarding the time and place for this gathering.

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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