

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost October 18, 2026

Worship Theme: "God is a Redeemer. He takes the dunghills that we and others have made of our lives, transforms them into fertilizer, and grows us into something beautiful, for His glory and our good."

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

Note: The children will begin today's Worship Service in the children's meeting room and will rejoin the congregation during the Passing of the Peace.

Welcome, Announcements, and

Introduction to Worship Thomas Brooks

Prelude: Jesus Loves Me/Praise Him arr. Callahan

Jesus loves me; this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Praise Him, Praise Him
All ye little children, God is love.

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: The Lord is our light and our salvation,

(...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: Whom shall we fear?

Liturgist: The Lord is the strength of our life,

Congregation: Of whom shall we be afraid?

Liturgist: We shall see the goodness of the Lord in the
land of the living!

**Congregation: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your
heart take courage.** —Psalm 27:1, 14

***Hymn No. 598:**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDA

Psalter Reading: Psalm 21 Joshua Stearns

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Our Great Redeemer” Rev. Giffone

Sermon Text: Zechariah 4:6-10; 8:9-23

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.

**O Lord, please do not rebuke us in Your anger, or
discipline us in Your wrath. For Your arrows have sunk
into us, and Your hand has come down on us. There is
no soundness in our flesh because of Your indignation.
There is no health in our bones because of our sin. For**

(...continued over...)

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

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

our iniquities have gone over our heads. They weigh like burdens too heavy for us.

Please forgive our sins, please pardon our iniquities, and please restore our communion with You. We ask these things through our blessed Lord Jesus—who for a little while was made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of His death— for whom by Your grace tasted death for everyone. Amen.

—an adaptation, based upon Psalm 38 and Hebrews 3 by Dr. T. David Gordon

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

Congregation: **He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.** *—Psalm 103:8-12*

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."*

Note: Parents should retrieve their children from the children's meeting room, so they may rejoin the congregation at this time.

(...continued over...)

The Sacrament of Baptism

New Testament Reading: Acts 2:29-41 Joshua Stearns

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Covenant Baptism Rev. Giffone and
RE Zachary Harvey

Felix Kern

Baptism by Profession of Faith Rev. Giffone and
RE Zachary Harvey

M. J. Callahan

Reception of New Member Rev. Giffone

M. J. Callahan

***Hymn No. 94:** *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION
(Verses 1 through 4, and 6)

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

Invitation to the Lord's Table Rev. Giffone

Offering: *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* arr. Rodriguez

***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.)

(...continued over...)

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:** *Thou, Whose Almighty Word*..... TRINITY

Thou, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight; hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the Gospel day sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

Thou who didst come to bring on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight, heal to the sick in mind,
sight to the in-ly blind, now to all humankind,
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love, life-giving holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight! Move on the waters' face
bearing the gifts of grace, and, in earth's darkest place,
let there be light!

Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might; boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride, through the world far and wide,
let there be light!

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone

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

(...continued over...)

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 October, let us pause our prayer petitions and give thanks to God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us personally and on Redeemer. As we pray, let us give thanks to God for:

- Being able to know God through His written Word and through the life of Jesus Christ here on earth.
- The love of Jesus Christ and His redeeming work on the cross, and for the gift of faith, that He has called us to be included in His Kingdom.
- Placing us in a country where the standard of living grants us plenty of opportunities for food, water, and physical comfort. All that we have comes from God. Let us ask ourselves: “Could I return a greater portion of that wealth, in a tithe or offering, to do God’s work?”
- Our families, including our Redeemer family. At Redeemer, we are blessed with many leaders to continue the ministry and growth of this congregation.



Pastor:Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD

pastor@rpcherie.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.rpcherie.org/give>



To contact the church: info@rpcherie.org

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The Sacrament of Baptism

A Baptismal Testimony of Faith by M. J. (Mary Janet) Callahan

I am so grateful for Jesus Christ, my Savior. I can see many ways that God has been drawing me to Himself in this life. Some of the key moments/milestones of God's grace in my life are: seeing how God responded to prayers for my brother when he had brain cancer; interacting with the Catholic nuns at my job; my son, Sean, inviting me to Redeemer; the love of this congregation; conversations about faith with Nate and Zack. I see God's faithfulness through my personal struggles and sorrows. He gives me strength to get up each day.

The EPC *Book of Worship* (BoW) 3-2

Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ. By the act of Baptism, a person becomes a part of the Visible Church, for it is a sign and a seal of the Covenant of Grace for believers and their children. As a sign, it proclaims God's forgiveness and our redemption in Jesus Christ. As a seal, God marks us as adopted children of our heavenly Father. It indicates our engrafting into Christ, our rebirth, the remission of sins, and our ability by the power of the Spirit to walk in newness of life. This sacrament is to be continued by God's people until the end of the world.

***Westminster Confession of Faith* (WCF) 27-3**

The grace revealed in or by sacraments in their right use does not come from any power in them. Neither does the effectiveness of a sacrament depend on the devoutness or the intention of whoever administers it. Rather the power and effectiveness of the sacraments are the result of the work of the Spirit and rest on God's word instituting them, since his word authorizes their use and promises benefits to worthy receivers of them.

From Ligonier Ministries

(learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/infant-baptism)

The New Testament nowhere commands us to baptize infants, but neither does it anywhere forbid it. Recognizing this fact, we will offer

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a brief case for infant baptism in the hopes of understanding why it is practiced by many Christians.

First, in the Old Testament, there is no standard chronology for faith and circumcision. Abraham was circumcised after professing faith (Gen. 17:22–27), but Isaac was circumcised before his confession (21:4). Faith in the Lord was necessary in both cases to appropriate all the benefits that circumcision promises, but the administration of the sign and seal was not tied to the timing of their faith. Circumcision and baptism are linked (Col. 2:8–15), and so baptism, like circumcision, need not be tied to the moment of profession.

Second, the old covenant promises were given to adults and their children, and this was depicted in circumcision. Thus, it is hard to imagine that the greater new covenant promises and signs should not also be given to the infant children of believing adults. In today's passage, Peter actually tells us the new covenant promises are gifts for the children of believers (Acts 2:38–39). Twenty-five percent of the baptisms found in the New Testament are of entire households, and these homes likely included children.

Finally, Paul says the children of a Christian parent are set apart to God (1 Cor. 7:12–14). Circumcision visibly set a child of believers apart under the old covenant, and so it would be hard for Jewish converts to believe the Lord would not include new covenant children in the seal that sets people apart as part of the visible community. Like circumcision, baptism without personal faith avails nothing. But baptism does mark the child as part of the visible church and liable to stricter judgment if the recipient never trusts God (Luke 12:41–48).

Whether or not we baptize infants, 1 Corinthians 7:12–14 reveals that children of believers have a relationship to the Lord that the offspring of non-believers do not share. They are in the visible church where they enjoy hearing the preached Word of God. But while the church does play a part in teaching children about Christ, the church is not to do all the work. We as parents, family, and friends must impress the teachings of Jesus upon the children we know.