REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

https://www.rpcerie.org

Sunday Morning Worship
First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

Worship Theme: *"The mountaintop feast of Isaiah 25, along with the commemorative feasts of Israel, point forward to the lavish provision of God—on Calvary and in the coming Kingdom. The feast is a gift, and the invitation goes out in these parables. The focus isn't so much on what it takes to get in (just come!). We are invited here to imagine what citizens and stewards of the Kingdom are like: humble, hospitable, generous, and eager for the celebration to begin!"*

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

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

Prelude: *Advent Reflection* ..... *Patterson*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel!

(...continued over...)

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

Connection/Request for Prayer

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

I'd like: ☐ Call from the pastor ☐ Prayer for:

_____

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(...continued on other side...)

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* ..... Thomas Brooks

Liturgist:	Awake! Rejoice! Prepare to meet your God!
Congregation:	**Christ is coming. Open the door. Clear the path. Prepare the way!**
Liturgist:	Christ came at Christmas to live as one of us.
Congregation:	**Christ comes today to love us and to lead us.**
Liturgist:	Christ will come tomorrow, wherever we may be.
Congregation:	**Come quickly, Lord Jesus!**

***Hymn No. 196:** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*....*Hyfrydol*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle .....Robert and Laurel LeSuer

Lighting the Advent wreath originated in Germany, based on a Roman custom of the ceremonial entrance of a ruler to a province or city as his "advent" (from the Latin adventus, meaning "arrival"). One candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent, two are lit the second Sunday, etc. Each of the candles has special significance. The final candle, the Christ Candle, is lit on Christmas Eve.

Liturgist:	Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the season when we remember the birth of Jesus, and we light the candles of the Advent wreath to remember His light entering the world. On this First Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Hope.
Congregation:	**His birth has brought us hope.**

(...continued over...)

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

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

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Liturgist: Yes! Today we light the first Advent candle to remind of us of the hope His birth has brought us. May it remind each and every one of us of God's great promise to us as prophesied by Jeremiah in Chapter 33 verses 14 thougth 16:

Liturgist: "The day is coming declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior."

Congregation: Hope is our assurance that God will finish all He has started. Hope is our confidence that He will do all that He has promised.

Liturgist: All the promises of God are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He is our hope, He is our Redeemer, and He is Savior.

Congregation: Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 2:1-5; 25:6-9 ..... Madeline Groenendaal

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

A Moment for Children .....Shirley Wilson

Note: The children (0 through 4 years) may go to the nursery classroom.

Hymn of Reflection: *Make Way* .....*Kendrick*

Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendor arrives.
Fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.
Make way, make way, for the King of Kings,
Make way, make way, and let his kingdom in.

(...continued over...)

He comes the broken hearts to heal, the prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.
Make way, make way, for the King of Kings,
Make way, make way, and let his kingdom in.

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 Grace and Truth, in Jesus Christ You came among us as Light shining in the darkness. We confess our many sins and acknowledge that we have not welcomed the Light, nor trusted the good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to Your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less.

Please forgive our sins, forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of Your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

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

Liturgist: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. *—Romans 5:1*

Congregation: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***Response Hymn:** *Emmanuel*..... *McGee*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us.
His name is called Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us.
His name is called Emmanuel

***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.

***Gospel Reading:** Luke 14:7-14..... Madeline Groenendaal

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

Sermon: "Table of Wonder" .....Rev. Donald D. Opitz, PhD

Sermon Text: Luke 14:15-24

Offering: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*.....*arr. Manz*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

***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**..... Thomas Brooks

Dear Lord, our desire is to willingly share the resources with which You have blessed us. With gratitude, we give this offering as a fulfillment of our responsibility to give back a portion of what You have so graciously bestowed upon us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

(...continued over...)

Communion Opening Prayer
and Words of Institution ..... Rev. Opitz

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. Opitz

***Hymn No. 198:** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates....Truro*
(Verses 1 through 4 only)

***Benediction** ..... Rev. Opitz

Postlude: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers!.....arr. Manz*

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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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

On October 18th, Pastor Benj announced that an agreement-in-principal had been reached on the sale of Weis Library United Methodist Church to West Erie PCA. When that purchase closes, Redeemer can begin negotiations to purchase the West Erie property at 621 West Second Street. As you pray during November, please ask God:

- To continue to open doors to move the property closing along and facilitate Redeemer's purchase of the West Second Street property.
- To reveal how we can bring glory to His name through Redeemer's purchase and use of this property.
- What special purpose does He have in mind by leading Redeemer to the West Second Street property?

Sermon Notes