

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Mission Church of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church
www.rpcerie.org

Sunday Morning Worship First Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2017

Worship Theme: "The Lord God, as revealed to us in His Son,
is the only answer to the unsolvable riddles
of life."

Gathering Music: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*..... C. Berry
(In a setting by G. F. Handel)
Shirley W. Wilson, Organist

Welcome and Announcements..... Robert LeSuer

Introduction of Today's Worship..... Susan Brooks

Prelude: *At the Name of Jesus*.....arr. Burkhardt

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

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

Liturgist: Give thanks to God!

Congregation: Proclaim God's goodness throughout all the world.

Liturgist: Let all gathered here, celebrate God's transforming love.

Congregation: Let us offer our lives in service to others.

Liturgist: Thanks be to God for the blessings which have been poured on us.

Congregation: Lord, enable us to use our gifts to serve You in Your world. Amen.

***Hymn No. 476:** *O Worship the King*LYONS

Prayers of Confession..... Susan Brooks

We will begin by praying silently, confessing our personal sins.
Then, we will join in a unison prayer of corporate confession.

Heavenly Father, You love us beyond compare and are faithful to us even when we turn away. You are patient, wise, caring and just.

We admit that we are not worthy of Your love or deserving of Your favor. We have ignored Your will, treated others with disdain, and failed to be grateful for Your mercy and blessings.

Forgive us once again. Restore us to a right relationship with You and with one another, for we ask it in Christ's name. Amen

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

Brothers! Listen! In this man Jesus, there is forgiveness for your sins! Everyone who trusts in him is freed from all guilt and declared righteous.
—Acts 13:38-39a LivB

***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!

Moments of Thanksgiving and Praise..... Susan Brooks

Prayers of Petitions of the People, and The Lord's Prayer (*debtors/debtors*)..... Susan Brooks

Psalter Reading: Psalm 19..... Shirley Wilson

Sermon: "The Book of Ecclesiastes: God's 'Gospel Bassoon.'" David J. Ayers, Ph.D.

Sermon Text: Ecclesiastes 1:1-14; 12:9-14

Offering: *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*..... Zachau

Prayer of Dedication for Our Offering (*unison*) Susan Brooks

Generous Heavenly Father we give You thanks. We thank You for the provisions You have faithfully given to us and for giving us all that we need. Accept these offerings as a means of bringing You glory and praise, in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

***Hymn No. 356:** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

***Benediction** (*unison*) Susan Brooks

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, individually and collectively, both now and until we meet again. Amen.

At the conclusion of the Benediction, the Congregation is dismissed.

Postlude: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*arr. Held

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

Nursery Available

We offer Nursery Care during our Worship Service. You will find the caregivers in the Joyce Parlor.

After the Worship Service

We invite you to join us for a time of fellowship with “**Soup and Salad Sunday**” after the worship service in the Joyce Parlor.

If you wish to have a time of personal prayer for any needs in your life, please speak to Bob LeSuer and he will arrange for someone to meet with you today and pray with you.



Easter Flowers

It is a privilege to assist our hosts, the congregation of St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, in decorating the sanctuary for Holy Week and Easter. If you would like to donate flowers in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one, please pick up an “Order Form for Easter Flowers” at the Information Center.

The Order Form and your check made payable to “St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church” must be received **by Sunday, March 26th.**

Our Guest Preacher for Today

We welcome **David J. Ayers, Ph.D.**, Dean of the Alva J. Calderwood School of Arts and Letters, Grove City College, as our guest speaker this week. Dr. Ayers has been at Grove City College since 1996.

He completed his Ph.D. at New York University, his M.A. at American University, and his B.A. at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. His graduate degrees are in Sociology, but his undergraduate degree is in Psychology.

Dr. Ayers’ varied background also includes being on the Sociology faculty at The King’s College in New York, at Dallas Baptist University in Texas, serving as a Special Research Affiliate in the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Policy Studies, working as Research Associate for a Washington, D.C., consulting firm, carrying out studies in the healthcare field.

As a boy he lived in both Athens, Greece, and Frankfurt, Germany, as his father served in covert operations for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Dr. Ayers is currently writing a book on Christian marriage for Weaver Books tentatively entitled *Two Cords, One Knot: The Wonder of Christian Marriage in a Confused World.*

More than anything else, Ayers is happy to be blessed with a wonderful family that includes his wife Kathy, six children, three sons-in-law, two granddaughters and a grandson on the way, and two dogs. He resides in Grove City.