

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Sunday Morning Worship Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2017

Worship Theme: "Embracing Christ across the span of our years."

Gathering Music: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*.....arr. Hopson
Shirley W. Wilson, Organist

Welcome and Announcements.....Dean Wilson

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

Prelude: *O God, Thou Faithful God*..... Karg-Elert

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

Liturgist: Lord, as we gather together, we acknowledge that we are a forgiven people.

Congregation: May we, like You, be generous in offering forgiveness to others.

Liturgist: You forgive us each day for the many ways we fall short of Your mercy.

Congregation: Teach us to embody Your grace, Your love, Your mercy and Your forgiveness to all those we encounter this day.

***Hymn No. 263:** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO

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.

Holy God, we thank You that You receive us not according to our failing goodness, but according to Your overflowing grace. You receive us as we are. You show us what we

can be. You have come to us in Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to share our common lot and reconcile us to Yourself.

Sweep over us with Your Spirit and change us by Your love, that we may sing with joy before You, and live to Your glory in the world. Amen.

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

I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

—Isaiah 44:22

***Response Hymn:** *Gloria Patri*..... GREATORIX

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 (debts/debtors).....Susan Brooks

Old Testament and Epistle Readings: Isaiah 46:4 and 2 Timothy 4:7-8..... Becky Rugh

Sermon: "Christ From the Youth through the Twilight of Our Lives"..... David J. Ayers, Ph.D.

Sermon Text: Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

Offering: *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;
Lead me with heav'nly light, Teach me Thy way!

Long as my life shall last, Teach me Thy way!
Where'er my lot be cast, Teach me Thy way!
Until the race is run, Until the journey's done,
Until the crown is won, Teach me Thy way!

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

Generous Heavenly Father, please accept these gifts as a means of bringing You glory and praise, and as a way of furthering Your work in this community. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn No. 388:** *O Jesus, I Have Promised*..... ANGEL'S STORY

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

May God who gives patience, steadiness, and encouragement help us to live in complete harmony with one another. May He maintain within each of us the attitude of Christ toward one another. Then, all of us can praise the Lord together with one voice, giving glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

—adapted from Romans 15:5-6 TLB

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

Postlude: *Fugue in A* Selby

** 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 coffee and cookies 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 Dean Wilson and he will arrange for someone to meet with you today and pray with you.

(...continued over...)

Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one or friend, to decorate the sanctuary for Holy Week and Easter, please use the “Order Form for Easter Flowers” available at the Information Center and include your check made payable to “St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church.” Orders must be received **by today, Sunday, March 26th.**

Special Congregational Meeting

The Board of Directors has issued a call for a Special Meeting of the Congregation immediately following the 11:00 a.m. regular worship service on **Sunday, April 2, 2017**, for the purpose of conducting such business as required by the ByLaws of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (EPC), including the election of Elders to assume office upon the localization of Redeemer Presbyterian Church and the election of members to serve on the Pastor Search Committee, as follows:

Elder (Class of 2018):.....Robert LeSuer

Elder (Class of 2019):.....Jennifer Pontzer

Elder (Class of 2020):.....Dean Wilson

Pastor Search Committee:Judy Bloeser, Susan Brooks, Dillon Gearing, Lisa Gordon, Bob LeSuer (Elder), Pat Pontzer, Dean Wilson (Elder)

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.

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

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.