

# REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
www.rpcerie.org

## Sunday Morning Worship First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

Worship Theme: "God has given His children specific instructions in dealing with those less fortunate in our world."

Families with very young children please note that, if you wish to use it, we offer Nursery Care during our Worship Service in the Joyce Parlor.

**Gathering Music:** *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying!* ..... J. S. Bach  
Shirley W. Wilson, Organist

**Welcome and Announcements**..... Robert LeSuer

**Introduction to Today's Worship**..... Susan Brooks

**Prelude:** *Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People* ..... arr. Manz

**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. 2:** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ..... HYFRYDOL

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle**.... Robert and Laurie 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. This year the final candle, the Christ candle, is lit on Christmas Eve.

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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.**

Liturgist: Today we light the first Advent candle to remind 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 14-16:

"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 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!**

**Prayers of Confession**..... Thomas Brooks

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

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ You came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted the good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to Your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our**

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**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.**

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

**There is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving Spirit- and this power is mine through Christ Jesus- has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death. Amen.**

—Romans 8:1-2 TLB

**\*Hymn No. 9:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*..... *VENI EMMANUEL*

**Moments of Thanksgiving and Praise** ..... Thomas Brooks

**Prayers and Petitions of the**

**People, and The Lord’s Prayer** (*debts/debtors*)..... Thomas Brooks

**Old Testament Reading:** Deuteronomy 15:4-11 NIV ...Robert LeSuer

**Sermon:** “Will the Poor Always Be With Us?” ..... Chaplain Andy Kerr

**Sermon Text:** Matthew 26:6-13 NIV

**Offering:** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee?*.....*arr. Manz*

**Prayer of Dedication for Our Offering** (*unison*) ..... Thomas Brooks

**Gracious Heavenly Father, we give thanks for all You have given to us and praise You for your astounding goodness. Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds, and bodies for the ministry of your church. Bless our offering for the work of Your reign, and give us wisdom for the right and proper use of all You have provided, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn No. 422:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* ..... *BEACH SPRING*

**\*Passing of the Peace** (*to one another*)..... Thomas Brooks

**\*Benediction** (*unison, spoken to each other*) ..... Thomas Brooks

**The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.**

—from Numbers 6:24-26

(...continued over...)

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

**Postlude:** *From Heaven Above* .....*arr. Held*

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

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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 Joyce Parlor.

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

### **Our Guest Preacher Today**

We welcome Chaplain Andy Kerr from the Erie City Mission to our pulpit this Sunday.

Andy Kerr is a business and leadership coach and trainer dedicated to helping grow and strengthen businesses and nonprofit organizations in the Erie area.

When not working at Andy Kerr Coaching, Andy can be found at the Erie City Mission where he serves as Chaplain and has started many exciting new programs such as Getting Ahead, a class proven to help assist people in their climb out of poverty.

Andy has been married to his wife Jennifer, a teacher and musician, for the past 21 years. Together, they also work on a real estate business centered in the city of Erie, PA.

All of Andy Kerr’s endeavors are centered around his life’s mission of helping to eliminate poverty in his beloved city of Erie, PA.

We look forward to hearing the message that God has laid on Andy’s heart for us.