

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
www.rpcerie.org

Sunday Morning Worship Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

December 10, 2017

Worship Theme: *“Throughout history God has revealed His plan and purposes to His people in many different ways and circumstances. Today God still speaks and reveals Himself to His precious children to accomplish His plans and purposes.”*

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: *Oh, Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*.....arr. Manz
Shirley W. Wilson, Organist

Welcome and Announcements..... Robert LeSuer

Introduction to Today’s Worship..... Susan Brooks

Prelude: *Savior of the Nations, Come*arr. Manz

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

Liturgist: Let us sing to the Lord a new song.

Congregation: Let us abandon our darkness and embrace the light. Let us worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

***Hymn No. 3:** *Comfort, Comfort You My People*.....PSALM 42

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle..... CCO Students

Liturgist: On the first Sunday of Advent we lit the candle of Hope. On this second Sunday of Advent we light the candle of peace.

Liturgist: The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of Christ in chapter 9 and verses 6-7:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Liturgist: We acknowledge that peace does not reign in our world. Wars rage between countries. Injustice exists in every nation. Conflict exists in our own city and even between neighbors and friends. Children are abused in our neighborhoods.

Liturgist: Who will show us the way to peace and reconciliation? Where do we find the strength, the will, and the courage to work for peace and justice?

Congregation: The birth of Jesus brought Light into the world.

Liturgist: As we follow Him we find hope. Jesus said in John 14: 15-17,

Congregation: If you love me you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.

Liturgist: By following his commandments and with the help of the Holy Spirit we find peace and the strength, will and courage to reach out to others.

Congregation: Jesus, is the Prince of Peace and our hope for peace.

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Call to Confession: Psalm 32:1-7 (NASB)..... Thomas Brooks

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.

We need You to speak to us, O God, because we have, each in our own way, forgotten Your law, and forgotten Your love for us. We are in need of Your deliverance, because we have, too often, given ourselves to powers and practices that would destroy us. We are lost and in need of rescue. Come Lord Jesus, forgive us and restore us, guide us and deliver us, teach us and renew us. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

Now we can walk right into the Holy of Holies where God is, because of the blood of Jesus. This is the fresh, new, life-giving way which Christ has opened up for us by tearing the curtain-his human body- to let us into the holy presence of God.

—Hebrews 10: 19-20 TLB

***Response Hymn:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*..... *VENI EMMANUEL*

O Come, O Come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's Height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

Prayers and Petitions of the People..... Thomas Brooks

Sermon: "Is It Possible?" Rev. Gary Koerth

Sermon Text: 2 Kings 6:8-17

Offering: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*.....arr. Burkhardt

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

We thank You, O Lord our God, Maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. We offer them and ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table..... Rev. Gary Koerth

Opening Prayer/Lord's Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread: *The body of Christ, given for you.*

As you pass the bread, please say to the next person:
"The body of Christ, given for you."

Upon receipt of the bread, please eat it without waiting, as a sign of your individual and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Distribution of the Cup: *The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

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. Gary Koerth

***Hymn No. 426:** *Lord, Speak to Me, that I May Speak* *CANONBURY*

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

***Benediction** Rev. Gary Koerth

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

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(...continued over...)

Postlude: *People, Look East*..... arr. Harbach

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

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 and Celebrant Today

We welcome **Rev. Gary Koerth** to our pulpit this Sunday and to celebrate Holy Communion.

Rev. Koerth serves as Associate Pastor on the staff of Tabernacle Evangelical Presbyterian Church in the Youngstown, Ohio, suburb of Austintown. He has served this congregation for 29 years.

Rev. Koerth received a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1980 from Waynesburg University in Waynesburg, PA and a Master of Divinity in 1988 from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, MA.

He worked for the Coalition for Christian Outreach for four years at Ashland College and Youngstown State University. Then, Gary was called to Tabernacle Church as an Associate Pastor in 1988, where he served as Youth Pastor for ten years. He has continued to minister at Tabernacle Church in several different roles, primarily in the areas of congregational care and missions.

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Rev. Koerth and his wife, Cindy, have relocated to live in the Idora neighborhood of Youngstown to continue the ministry called "Hope For Renewal." The ministry has recently purchased a four thousand square foot store front building and are now in the process of rehabbing the building. The building will be the location of a community center and eventually a church.

We at Redeemer Presbyterian Church (EPC) continue to support their ministry in the planting of a new Evangelical Presbyterian Church in this Idora neighborhood.

Rev. Koerth and his wife have two adult children, Michael (25) and Melinda (23).

We look forward to the message that God has laid on Rev. Koerth's heart to share with us.



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Mission Church of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Meeting at: St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
950 West 7th Street, Erie, PA

CHRISTMAS EVE — 5:00 P.M.
—Lessons and Carols—
The simplicity of Scripture and Carols
tells the story of the coming
of the Lord Jesus Christ to redeem us all!

