

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

www.rpcerie.org

Sunday Morning Worship First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 7, 2018

Worship Theme: *“For we who follow Christ, God has revealed to us the mystery of His magnificent Kingdom.”*

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: *What Star is This, With Beams So Bright*.....arr. Hopson
Shirley W. Wilson, Organist

Welcome and Announcements..... Robert LeSuer

Prelude: *Prelude on “Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”* G. Young
Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of life, Thou Light of men,
from the best bliss that earth imparts,
we turn unfilled to Thee again.

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: God of Light, You brought forth light as Your first act of creation.

Congregation: You brought forth light and darkness did not overcome it.

Liturgist: You brought forth light in the form of Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to shine the light of hope in a world of darkness and despair.

Congregation: You have called us to shine with Your light, and You have called us to bring Your light to the world. Amen.

***Hymn No. 63:** *As with Gladness Men of Old* Dix

Psalter Reading: Psalm 29:1-2, 11 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.

O Lord our God, You know the ways this past year in which our lives have not represented truth and knowledge. You know the times in which we have struggled to be warm and caring and the times when we did not choose goodness.

Forgive us Lord, for those times when our lives did not reflect Your love. Give us Your help and healing in our lives that we may begin this New Year with hope and joy, through Jesus Christ our Savior, Lord, and King. Amen.

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

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness.

—1 John 1:9 NIV

Thanks be to God!

***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 Thomas Brooks

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

New Testament Reading: Acts 19:1-7 Judy Bloeser

Sermon: “The Mystery of the Kingdom of God” Douglas J. Kortyna

Sermon Text: Mark 4:1-11

Offering: *The Three Kings*arr. Held

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

Our gracious Lord, we offer these gifts to You. We pray that You will use these gifts and our service to further Your kingdom, so that others may experience Your divine grace and mercy. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn No. 68:** *What Star Is This,
With Beams So Bright* *PUER NOBIS NASCITUR*

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

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

**We praise You, O Christ, for coming to us—both as a baby born in Bethlehem long ago and in Your presence with us during our worship. We thank You that You will be with us always—even to the end of the age.
Go with us, then, throughout this week, that we may love You and serve You with gladness and singleness of heart.
In Your precious name, we pray. Amen.**

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

Postlude: *Fugue and Harmonization on “O God Our Help”* Hopson

** 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 for Today

We welcome **Douglas J. Kortyna** to our pulpit this Sunday.

Douglas and his wife, Sara, reside in the Pittsburgh suburb of Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania. They have been members of Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church for over three years.

Douglas earned a Masters of Arts degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. In August of 2017, he earned a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity School for Ministry. Douglas and Sara are currently looking for an EPC church in which to serve.

They enjoy walking their basset hound, Chaya. They also enjoy fishing, cooking, and many other activities. They are also expecting a baby girl, which they plan to name Zoe, during the first week of April 2018.

We look forward to hearing the message that God has laid on Douglas' heart for us.

Praying For Each Other

As you bow your hearts in prayer today, please also pray for one another. Simply pick someone sitting near you and pray for that one today and all through the week ahead.

Preparing for Sunday

We encourage you to get a head start each week on preparing for Sunday worship. You will find the Scripture Readings and the Sermon title listed on the homepage of our church's website by mid-afternoon each Sunday for the following Sunday:

<http://www.rpcerie.org/home.html>

