

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
www.rpcerie.org

Sunday Morning Worship Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 21, 2018

Worship Theme: "God's gift to us is Jesus Christ, who is our hope, our peace, and our joy."

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: *Processional of Joy*.....Beethoven/Hopson
Shirley W. Wilson, Organist

Welcome..... Robert LeSuer

Reception of New Members Clerk of Session Laurel LeSuer
Jaye Moelk

Announcements Robert LeSuer

Prelude: *Dearest Jesus, We are Here*..... arr. Cherwien

Call to Worship: (responsively) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Congregation: We will be glad and rejoice in it.

Liturgist: This is the year that the Lord has begun.

Congregation: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Liturgist: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning.

Congregation: Great is your faithfulness.

Liturgist: The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to those who seek him.

All: Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.

—from Jeremiah 3:22-25

(...continued over...)

***Hymn No. 22:** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*..... REGENT SQUARE

Psalter Reading: Psalm 148 Marykay Stahl

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 God, we live as if the Light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us. We confess that we ignore the Christ You sent to be among us. We've kept the birth of Your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for His birth to be a present reality in the depth of our hearts.

Lord, You came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Your coming. It's time that we prepare for Your return. Let the earth ring with song. Let the Light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

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

In Jesus' name the Lord our God forgives our sins this day and every day, this year and every year. What is over is done; God gives us grace for what is to come.

***Response Hymn No. 40:** *Joy to the World!* ANTIOCH

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3 Robert LeSuer

Moments of Thanksgiving and Praise Thomas Brooks

Prayers and Petitions of the

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

Epistle Reading: Galatians 4:4-7 Robert LeSuer

Sermon: "Hope" Laurel LeSuer

Sermon Text: Luke 2:22-40

Offering: *My Hope is in the Lord*..... Clayton/Wilson

My hope is in the Lord who gave Himself for me,
And paid the price of all my sin at Calvary.
For me He died, For me He lives,
And everlasting life and light He freely gives.

(...continued over...)

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

Dear Lord, You have given so many gifts to us. You have held nothing back of Yourself. But rather, You have come among us in Christ Jesus to save us and make us new. We offer to You now our lives and with them the work of our hands, as represented by that which is contained in this offering. Bless us and all we offer both now and forevermore. Amen.

***Hymn No. 53:** *What Child is This* GREENSLEEVES

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

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

God says: “Behold, I am making everything new!” In this new year, let us move forward with the confidence our new name gives us, with a new song in our hearts and on our lips, with the new way before us, and with our eyes fixed on the horizon when Christ will return and make a new heaven and a new earth.

May this be the year. Come, Lord Jesus! Christ has promised: “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

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

Postlude: *Postlude on “Solid Rock”* Parks

** 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.

(...continued over...)

Preaching Today

We welcome Mrs. Laurel LeSuer to our pulpit this Sunday.

Laurie serves as Clerk of Session for Redeemer Presbyterian Church. She has a long history of service to Christ and His Kingdom. We greatly appreciate Laurie’s many contributions to Redeemer Presbyterian Church and to the Greater Erie community. We look forward to the message that God has laid on her heart to share with us today.

Please Pray for our Leaders

As a congregation, we continue to express our gratitude to God for the godly Leaders He has raised up in our midst to guide the further development of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (EPC). It is appropriate, therefore, that we continue to hold all our Leaders up in our prayers.

We encourage you to make it a point to pray daily for the following individuals:

Pastor: (*Please pray for the Pastor that God is preparing to send to us.*)

Session

Robert LeSuer, Ruling Elder	Thomas Brooks, Min. of Mus./Worship ¹
Jennifer Pontzer, Ruling Elder	Laurie LeSuer, Clerk of Session ¹
Dean Wilson, Ruling Elder	Marykay Stahl, Treasurer ¹

¹ non-voting member

Advisors and Committee Chairs

Susan Brooks, Chair of Pastor Search	Marti Ruggiero, Chair of Fellowship
Lisa Gordon, Elder	James Stahl, Chair of Missions

Nominating Committee

Bob LeSuer	Susan Brooks	Shirley Wilson
Jennifer Pontzer	Eric Stockhoff	

Pastor Search Committee

Susan Brooks, Chair	Lisa Gordon	Dean Wilson
Judy Bloeser	Robert LeSuer	Rev. Chris Curtis
Dillon Gearing	Patrick Pontzer	