

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

Worship Theme: *"Eternal life is a 'free gift' of God to us, by grace through faith. We can never pay God back for this gift. But God's gift cements our ongoing relationship with Him, such that we earnestly wish to do the good works He has prepared for us to do."*

We welcome children of all ages in our Worship Service.
At the Information Center in the rear of the Sanctuary, we offer children a "Book Bucket" with books and activities for their use.
Parents, please do not be concerned if your young child cries.
We believe that the cries of young children signal that the church is alive, well, and destined to continue for generations to come.

Welcome, Announcements, and

Introduction to Worship Thomas Brooks

Prelude: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*arr. Berry

My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine:
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away.
O let me from this day be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;
As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire.

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: O God, your constant love reaches to the
heavens, your faithfulness extends to the
heavens.

(...continued over...)

Congregation: Your righteousness towers like the mountains, your justice is deeper than the sea.

Liturgist: All find protection under the shadow of your wings. We feast on the abundance that you provide.

Congregation: You are the source of all life, and in your light, we see light.

—based on Psalm 36:5-9

Note: The Congregation should please stand, if able to do so.

***Hymn No. 529:** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.....BEECHER*

Note: The Congregation should please remain standing for the Gospel Reading.

***Gospel Reading:** John 3:1-8Marykay Stahl

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Note: The Congregation may please be seated.

Note: We will have A Moment for Children only if two or more children are present in the Worship Service.

A Moment for ChildrenShirley Wilson

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated for the following Hymn.

Hymn of Reflection:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Robinson/Nettleton

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;

(...continued over...)

Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander—Lord, I feel it—
prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

Prayers of Confession..... Thomas Brooks

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

**Loving God, as we come to You confessing our sins,
we confess that we can be an anxious people. We
do not notice Your presence all around us, and we
often fail to keep Your written Word.**

**Forgive us, we pray, for these and all the ways we
fall short. Enable us to live in peace, and reflect
Your love in the world. We humbly beseech You,
through Jesus Christ our Savior, Lord, and King.
Amen.**

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon (*responsively*) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins
is proclaimed to you.

**Congregation: In Christ, we have redemption
through his blood, and the forgiveness
of our sins, according to the riches of
his grace.** —from Acts 13:38 and Ephesians 1:7

Thanks be to God!

Note: The Congregation should please stand for the Hymn, if able to do so.

***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!

(...continued over...)

Note: If able, the Congregation should please remain standing following the Hymn

***Passing of the Peace**..... Thomas Brooks

*Note: The Congregation will please turn to each other and speak these words of greeting: "May the peace of Christ be with you."
And the answer of response: "And, also with you."*

Note: The Congregation may please be seated.

**Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and
The Lord's Prayer** (*debts/debtors*) Robert LeSuer

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated for the reading of Scripture.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 2:9-22 Marykay Stahl

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "Dead Means Dead!" Rev. Giffone

Sermon Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

Invitation to the Lord's Table..... Rev. Giffone

Offering: *Išgelbėti Malone* *Arnoldas Jalianiauskas*
The Giffone Family

(—Please see the words to this song in the Bulletin Insert—)

Note: We welcome the families with children sitting in the rear of the sanctuary to come forward and find seating in the front of the church, so that the children may observe the Celebration of Holy Communion.

Note: If able, the Congregation should please stand for the Offertory Hymn.

***Offertory Hymn:** *Doxology*..... *OLD HUNDREDTH*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(...continued over...)

Note: The Congregation should please remain standing, if able to do so.

***Offertory Prayer** Rev. Giffone

Note: The Congregation may please be seated.

**Communion Opening Prayer
and Words of Institution** Rev. Giffone

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

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

Upon receipt of the bread, please hold it until all have been served,
so that we can partake of the bread together, as a sign of our oneness
in Christ and membership in His corporate body—the Christian Church.

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. Giffone

Note: If able, the Congregation should please remain standing for the Hymn.

***Hymn No. 252:** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*.... HAMBURG

Note: The Congregation should please remain standing, if able to do so.

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone

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

Postlude: *The Church's One Foundation*arr. Tornquist

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



(...continued over...)

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 rear of the sanctuary.

If you have any special needs in your life and you wish to have a time of personal prayer, please speak to Pastor Benj or to one of our Ruling Elders—Zachary Harvey, Robert LeSuer, or Amy Stearns—and he or she will arrange for someone to meet with you today and pray with you.

Monthly Prayer Focus for May

In Mark 4:35-41, Jesus falls asleep in a boat on the Sea of Galilee and a squall threatens to swamp the boat. In great fear, the Disciples wake Jesus and implore Him to help. Since they do not yet understand who Jesus is, they are probably looking for another pair of hands to help bail water to keep the boat from sinking. His response, calming the storm, was more than anything they could possibly have imagined.

During the month of May, let us:

- Pray to acknowledge how many times we have prayed for help, or for something, with a preconceived solution in mind.
- Pray for understanding of the majestic and truly awesome power of our Lord.
- Pray simply and sincerely for Jesus's help with a particular problem, or a particular situation.
- Then, get out of the way, as Jesus provides His answer to our prayers.

Pastor: Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD
Minister of Music and Worship: Thomas Brooks
Accompanist: Shirley Wilson

To contact the church, please send an email to the following address:

info@rpcerie.org

To contact Pastor Benj, please send him an email at: **pastor@rpcerie.org**

Or, please call or text him at: **724-221-2595**

Išgelbėti Malone

“Saved by Grace”

Verse 1:

Jūs gi esat išgelbėti, malone per tikėjimą –
You have been saved by grace through faith
Ne iš save, kad kas nors nesigirtų,
Not of yourselves, so that no one can boast
Bet tai yra Jums Dievo dovana.
But rather, it is the gift of God to you.

ir ne darbais, kad kas nors nesigirtų, (3x)
And not by works, so that no one can boast
bet tai yra Jums Dievo dovana,
But rather, it is the gift of God to you.
o tai yra Jums Dievo dovana.
Yes, it is the gift of God to you.

Verse 2

Mes gi esame išgelbėti, malone per tikėjimą –
We have been saved by grace through faith
Ne iš save, kad kas nors nesigirtų,
Not of ourselves, so that no one can boast
Bet tai yra mums Dievo dovana,
But rather, it is the gift of God to us.

ir ne darbais, kad kas nors nesigirtų, (3x)
And not by works, so that no one can boast
bet tai yra mums Dievo dovana,
But rather, it is the gift of God to us.
o tai yra mums Dievo dovana.
Yes, it is the gift of God to us.

Continued over ...

Verse 3

Aš gi esu išgelbėtas, malone per tikėjimą –
I have been saved by grace through faith
Ne iš savęs, kad kas nors nesigirtų,
Not of myself, so that I cannot boast
Bet tai yra man Dievo dovana,
But rather, it is the gift of God to me.

ir ne darbais, kad kas nors nesigirtų, (3x)
And not by works, so that no one can boast
bet tai yra man Dievo dovana,
But rather, it is the gift of God to me.
o tai yra man Dievo dovana.
Yes, it is the gift of God to me.

—Words and Music by Arnoldas Jalianiauskas

Adult Christian Education Class

On May 25, June 1, 8, 22 and 29, 2025, we invite all adults to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Christ Center for our Adult Christian Education class led by Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD, and entitled: “Choose Life: The Book of Deuteronomy.”

Pastor Benj keeps insisting that the Book of Deuteronomy is the most important Book in the Bible. Given that Jesus quotes from the Book of Deuteronomy three times to the devil, it appears that our Lord Himself regards it as rather crucial content. In the New Testament, the Book of Deuteronomy is also the third-most-frequently used Book of the Old Testament. But, the Book of Deuteronomy also contains some of the strangest and most foreign material in the Old Testament. What are we to make of it?

This class will explore the historical context, structure, and theology of the Book of Deuteronomy, which is a pivotal point in the Old Testament narrative. What does this Book tell us about Jesus Christ, and our identity and mission as his people? Join us, in the Christ Center, at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday.