

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025

Worship Theme: *“Psalm 91 reminds us that God is our resting place and safe harbor, emphasizing the spirituality of dwelling. Of course, the Bible also commends a spirituality of seeking—and we find our ultimate Kingdom dwelling after patient (and often difficult) sojourning.”*

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: *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place*.....arr. Ham
(adapted from Brahms' A German Requiem)

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
For my soul, it longeth, yea fainteth, for the courts of the Lord:
My soul and body crieth out, yea for the living God.
Blest are they, that dwell within thy house:
They praise thy name evermore.

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Call to Worship: (responsively) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: We gather to worship the One who crafted
creation out of chaos.

Congregation: **Our songs of joy join the anthems of the
universe.**

(...continued over...)

Liturgist: We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice.

Congregation: We bring the songs which are in our hearts.

Liturgist: We gather as the children of God.

Congregation: Let our joy resound through singing, teaching, and reflecting on God's written Word.

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

***Hymn No. 94: How Firm a Foundation.....FOUNDATION**
(Verses 1 through 4, and 6)

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

***Gospel Reading: John 14:1-7 Mark Kmecik**

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

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

A Moment for Children Shirley Wilson

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

Hymn of Reflection: Jesus, Lover of My Soul..... C. Wesley

Jesus, Lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high;
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee:
Leave, ah! Leave me not alone, still support and comfort me!
All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

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.

**Eternal God, our Judge and Redeemer, we come
humbly into Your divine presence to confess our sins.
We confess that we have tried to hide from You, for we**

(...continued over...)

have done wrong. God of grace, please forgive us.

We acknowledge that we have lived for ourselves and drawn apart from You. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. God of grace, please forgive us.

We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. God of grace, please forgive us.

In Your great mercy, please forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose to surrender to Your will and obey Your commandments. You alone know our hearts, our hopes, and our dreams. Please draw near to us and hear us, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, Lord, and King. Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

Congregation: **For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

—Psalm 103:8-12

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!

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

(...continued over...)

***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.

Psalter Reading: Psalm 92:12-15 Mark Kmecik

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Note: The Congregation may please be seated.

Sermon: "Home Sweet Home".....Rev. Donald D. Opitz, PhD

Sermon Text: Psalm 91

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

Offering: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*..... arr. Carter

My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name:
In pastures fresh He makes me feed, beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back, when I forsake his ways;
And leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

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** *(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.**

Note: The Congregation may please be seated.

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

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. Opitz

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

***Hymn No. 181:** *We Come, O Christ, to You* DARWALL

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

***Benediction** Rev. Opitz

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

Postlude: *All Creatures of Our God and King* arr. Sanborn

** Congregation should 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 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 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 August

During August, we respectfully ask that you focus your prayers on unchurched people. More specifically, choose one person (family or friend) and pray for that person every day for the entire month. Please pray earnestly for:

- The Holy Spirit to cause a change in his or her heart and make that one receptive to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Someone to enter the person's life and explain the gospel to him or her in a way that is compelling and irresistible.
- God to give you an opportunity to connect with that person yourself.

When you do connect, be courageous in your statement of why faith in Christ is an important part of your life. Mention that, recently, you have been praying for him or her every day. While you are with the person, ask if you can pray with that one right there. Then, ask if you can explain the Gospel. If this person has accepted Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, rejoice and celebrate. Maybe you can make plans to attend a worship service together. If that one has not accepted Christ, pray that the Holy Spirit will create a movement in his or her heart.

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**
