

Offering: Am I a Soldier of the Cross? Improvised

Am I a soldier of the cross, a foll’wer of the Lamb,
And shall I fear to own his cause, or blush to speak his name?

Must I be carried to the skies, on flow’ry beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize, and sailed through bloody seas?

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.

*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.

*Offertory Prayer Rev. Giffone

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

*Hymn No. 667: *God is My Strong Salvation* MEIN LEBEN

*Benediction Rev. Giffone

Postlude: *Rejoice! Ye Pure in Heart* arr. Larson

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 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.

Prayer Focus for September

In our Prayer Focus during September, let us give thanks to God, and
also consider the following:

- Are we thankful that our faith in Jesus Christ will bring us eternal life? Ask Him for opportunities to share that Gospel faith with others.
- Have our prayers for that friend or relative born fruit? If so, give God the glory and thanks. Let us know about it so we can celebrate, also. If not, give God praise and thanks that the person is in our lives and keep praying for that person.
- Give thanks for the family in which God has placed us. Even difficult relationships can change through prayer. Maybe God put us there to be that change agent.
- Our standard of living is far above many people in this world. Give thanks to God for His many blessings of adequate food, clothing, and shelter. Pray for ways to share those blessings with others who are less fortunate.
- Give thanks to God that Redeemer has the resources to support missionaries and teachers. Pray for the health and well-being of Usman Kamara, the teacher we support in Fintonia, Sierra Leone. Pray for Sandie Starr Everhart, Sam Van Eman, and Ray Wiesen, CCO staffers on college campuses.

Pastor: Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD
pastor@rpcerie.org/724-221-2595

Minister of Music and Worship: Thomas Brooks
Accompanist: Shirley Wilson
Ruling Elders: Robert LeSuer, Amy Stearns, Zachary Harvey

Ways to Give to Redeemer:
• Offering Plate
• Mail: RPC Treasurer, c/o 115 W Lakeview Blvd., Erie, PA 16508
• Online: <https://www.rpcerie.org/give.html>

To contact the church: info@rpcerie.org



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025

Worship Theme: “The spiritual armor given to us by God allows us to stand boldly, assured of His final victory. Prayer strengthens us to advance confidently the message of Jesus’s Lordship into the world, united in the Holy Spirit.”

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

Welcome, Announcements, and
Introduction to Worship Thomas Brooks

Prelude: *He Leadeth Me/Lead On, O King Eternal*arr. Rodriguez

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav’nly comfort fraught!
Whate’er I do, where’er I be,
still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home:
Through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

(...continued over...)

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Connection/Request for Prayer

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

I’d like: ☐ Call from the pastor ☐ Prayer for:

(...continued on other side...)

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Congregation: Nations are in an uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

Liturgist: Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

Congregation: The Lord almighty is with us; The God of Jacob is our fortress.

—Psalm 46:1, 6, 10-11

***Hymn No. 575:** *Soldiers of Christ, Arise* *DIADEMATA*

Psalter Reading: Psalm 144..... Jaye Moelk

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 Rev. Giffone

Hymn of Reflection: *Lead Me Lord* *S. Wesley*

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
Make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
That maketh me dwell in safety.

(...continued over...)

-----*(please tear off here)*-----

(...continued from other side...)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
Make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
That maketh me dwell in safety.

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.

Our great and glorious God, You who know and judge the secrets of every human heart. We acknowledge and confess that, in our sins, we have followed our father Adam in revolting against Your commandments. We have turned from Your ways and from Your blessed presence, and have reaped the misery of turning away from You, the very Author of life.

None of us is righteous, no not one. None of us has understanding. None of us seeks God. Our throats are opened graves. We use our tongues to deceive. Our mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Our feet are swift to shed blood. Ruin and misery are in our paths, and the way of peace we have not known. There is no fear of You, O God, before our eyes.

We appeal to You, through Your great mercy made manifest in Jesus Christ Your obedient Son, that You would forgive our sins for His sake. We humbly ask that You would make us righteous through Christ’s one act of obedience. We pray that where our sin has increased, Your grace would abound. Just as Christ was raised from the dead by Your glory, so also may we walk in newness of life. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

—based upon Romans 3

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: If we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. (1 John 1:9)

(...continued over...)

Congregation: So there is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving Spirit-and this power is mine through Christ Jesus- has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death.

—Romans 8:1-2

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!

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

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

Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and The Lord’s Prayer *(debts/debtors)* Zachary Harvey

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Gospel Reading:** Matthew 10:16-25..... Jaye Moelk

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Be Strong in the Lord and in the Strength of His Might”..... Rev. Giffone

Sermon Text: Ephesians 6:10-24

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

(...continued over...)