

***Offertory Prayer** *(unison)* Thomas Brooks

Loving Father, 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, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Communion Opening Prayer and Words of Institution Rev. McCabe

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. McCabe

***Hymn No. 691:** *It is Well with My Soul*..... *VILLE DU HAVRE*

***Benediction** Rev. McCabe

Postlude: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*arr. Berry

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 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.

Christian Education Classes Resume Today

Our Christian Education classes for all ages resume today immediately following the time of Fellowship after the morning Worship Service.

Our Adult Christian Education class begins a 6-week journey into the very center of the Christian faith, exploring the rich mystery of the Trinity and how it transforms every part of life. Please join us at this new time and new place: at the tables in the rear of the Sanctuary. A light lunch will be served.

While adults meet in the rear of the Sanctuary, please join us for Christian Education classes for children in the Nursery Room.

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
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 2025

Worship Theme: “God speaks to His dearly loved children: ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’”

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

Welcome, Announcements, and Introduction to Worship Thomas Brooks

Prelude: *Day by Day* arr. Fettke

Day by day and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father’s wise bestowment,
I’ve no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what he deems best,
Lovingly, it’s part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

(...continued over...)

(please tear off here)

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: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
Congregation: Make known among the nations what he has done.

Liturgist: Sing to him, sing praise to him;
Congregation: Tell of all his wonderful acts.

Liturgist: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Congregation: Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always; seek his face always.

Liturgist: Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.

Congregation: He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. —*Psalm 105:1-7*

***Hymn No. 164:** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* *AZMON*

First Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 5:8-11 Jennifer Pontzer

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

A Moment for ChildrenShirley Wilson

Hymn of Reflection: *Like a River Glorious* *Watts*

Like a river glorious is God’s perfect peace,
Over all victorious in its bright increase;
Perfect, yet it floweth fuller every day.

.....*(please tear off here)*.....
(...continued over...)

Perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.
Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest.
Finding as he promised, perfect peace and rest.

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.

Almighty God, You are eternal, gracious, loving, and steadfast. We come into Your divine presence knowing that Your grace, mercy, and love are beyond our deserving. As we come humbly before You, none of us is worthy of Your tender care.

We confess before You all of our sins, including our sins of self-righteousness, pride, and possessiveness. Please remove the blinders to our faults and increase our sensitivity to those around us. Please renew Your peace within us, so that we may approach You with confidence and serve You with joy. We ask these things through your Son, our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: 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*

Congregation: We have one who speaks to the father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. —*1 John 2:1b-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!

(...continued over...)

***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)* Amy Stearns

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.

Second Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-7... Jennifer Pontzer

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Crown of Thorns”Rev. McCabe

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

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

Offering: *He Giveth More Grace*..... *Improvised*

He giveth more grace when the burden grows greater;
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase.
To added affliction he addeth his mercy;
To multiplied trials, his multiplied peace.
His love has no limit; his grace has no measure;
His pow’r has no boundary known unto men.
For out of his infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.

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.

(...continued over...)