

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 2025

Worship Theme: *"When we worship God according to His written Word rather than by means we devise in our hearts, we find satisfaction and joy in Him. Sincere, humble, biblical worship makes us closer disciples of Jesus. By it also the Holy Spirit draws unbelievers to understanding, belief and new life."*

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

Welcome, Announcements, and

Introduction to Worship Thomas Brooks

Prelude: *O God Beyond All Praising* arr. Larkin

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end;
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

(...continued over...)

(please tear off here)

Connection/Request for Prayer

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

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

At Redeemer, we follow the Liturgical Year. Each Sunday sequentially measures from the beginning of the Church Year—the First Sunday of Advent, usually the first Sunday in December. In addition, certain Sundays have significance to celebrate certain occasions in the life of the Church, such as this Sunday which celebrates the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple.

The Worship Theme is chosen by the person preaching to represent the main theme of his or her sermon. The Minister of Music and Worship uses this Worship Theme to choose the other Elements of the Worship Service, such as the Call to Worship and the Hymns. The Accompanist uses the Worship Theme to choose the music for the Prelude, Hymn of Reflection, Offertory, and Postlude.

The accompanist chooses a Prelude that will support the Worship Theme and provides the text of the piece, so that the congregation can meditate on that text while the music is played. The actual Worship Service begins at the Prelude.

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

The Call to Worship is selected by the Minister of Music and Worship to relate to the Worship Theme and to encourage the congregation to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all believers present, as they prepare to direct their acknowledgement and praise to God. God summons us to worship, and we respond with praise and with singing.

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Happy are those who follow the ways of the Lord.

Congregation Left Side: God's ways are just and merciful.

Congregation Right Side: Those who follow God's ways are continually nourished in faith.

Congregation Left Side: In all that they do, they prosper.

Congregation Right Side: Come, let us open our hearts to God's compassionate Love.

All: Let us celebrate God's mercy and justice.

The first Hymn is chosen as a response to the Call to Worship and specifically offers praise to God for who He is: the Creator and Sustainer of all things and the One who has given us salvation from our sins through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.

***Hymn No. 30:** *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*..... St. ANNE
(Verses 1 through 4, and 7 only)

The first Scripture Reading is chosen by the person preaching to support the Worship Theme embodied in the Sermon. As with all reading of Scripture, the congregation acknowledges what they have heard by the response following the reading.

Psalter Reading: Psalm 96.....Laurel LeSuer

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.

The Moment for Children communicates to the children that they are an important part of the congregation.

A Moment for ChildrenShirley Wilson

(...continued over...)

-----*(please tear off here)*-----
(...continued from other side...)

Hymn of Reflection:

My Jesus I Love Thee..... Featherstone/Gordon

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
For thee all the follies of sin I resign,
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou,
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree,
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

The Hymn of Reflection is chosen by the accompanist as a preparation for prayer and confession. This song allows the congregation to sing a song with which they are quite familiar.

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—Who are rich in mercy to all those who call upon You—please hear us as we come to You humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, and imploring Your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds, by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before You our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness, and all our failures and shortcomings toward You and toward our fellow men.

Please have mercy upon us, most merciful Father. And of Your great goodness, please grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—based on an adaptation from the Book of Common Worship by T. David Gordon

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

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

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

—Romans 5:1-2a

Thanks be to God!

The Prayers of Confession give believers the opportunity to confess: first their corporate sins and then (silently) their personal sins. While personal confession is a normal part of a believer's daily time with God, on Sundays, the believers join together to recognize the importance of keeping a clean slate with God through confession.

Having confessed both our corporate and personal sins, the Assurance of Pardon reminds us that Jesus has paid the penalty for our sins and we remain chosen by God and forgiven because of the birth, life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Liturgist is not a "priest" and thus does not "pronounce absolution" of sins, but points to the assurance given to all believers (the Liturgist included) in God's written Word.

(...continued over...)

In response to our hearing the Assurance of Pardon, we join our voices in singing praise to God for the forgiveness that He has given us through His Son. The Response Hymn varies based on the season. This one, the Gloria Patri ("Glory to the Father"), is one of the ancient Christian doxologies.

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!

Recognizing that the Lord Jesus Christ has made peace between us and God through his redeeming work, we each declare that peace to one another, and the peace among us as redeemed people. This celebrates the community we have through our faith in God.

***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 reply: "And, also with you."*

During this time of Prayer, we bring the needs of the world, our church, and the members and friends of our congregation to God in prayer. The congregation is encouraged to share their prayers both aloud and silently. Typically an Elder, as one of the shepherds of the congregation, leads the prayer. The Lord's Prayer is how Jesus commanded his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:9-13). It unites all Christian churches, though the precise wording varies somewhat for historical reasons.

**Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and
The Lord's Prayer.....** Rev. Giffone

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.

The second Scripture Reading likewise supports the Worship Theme and the sermon. Typically the three readings are chosen from different portions of the canon of Scripture (Psalm, Gospel, other Old Testament, other New Testament), to ensure we are fed a "balanced diet" of God's written Word.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 14:20-33a..... Laurel LeSuer

During this time in the Worship Service, the person preaching shares what God has laid on his or her heart with the congregation. The Worship Theme comes alive during this time of preaching from God's written Word, the Bible.

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

**Sermon: "Ascribe to YHWH the Glory
Due His Name!".....** Rev. Giffone

Sermon Text: 1 Chronicles 13:1-14; 15:11-15; 16:1-6

Each week (or whenever possible) we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in response to the instruction of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a time of reflection on the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord, and a time of recommitment to living lives dedicated to serving Him and His Kingdom.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Remembrance · Communion · Hope

The ordained minister celebrating Holy Communion invites all who have received Jesus as Savior to join in celebrating this Sacrament.

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

The offertory, the tithes and offerings, and the doxology are all included in the celebration of Holy Communion. This is not "compensating" God or the church for the sermon or the sacrament. Instead, we dedicate a portion of the fruit of our labors, for holy use. This dignifies the work that we do during the week, and points our hearts to God the Creator and Sustainer.

Offering: When Morning Gilds the Skies arr. Carter

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries;
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair;
May Jesus Christ be praised.

In the Old Testament, people brought various kinds of oil, grain, wine and meat to share with God, the priests, and the poor. In the early church, the sacrament was a meal, food and other in-kind gifts were brought to the communion table for the sacrament, and then deacons distributed the rest to the poor.

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.

(...continued over...)

***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.

As the usher brings the Offering plate to the Communion Table, the congregation sings this song of praise to God, acknowledging our privilege of sharing with Him our tithes, offerings, and love gifts.

***Offertory Prayer**..... Rev. Giffone

This Prayer dedicates the tithes, offerings, and love gifts to the service of Christ and His Kingdom and reminds us of the joy we should feel in giving back to God a portion of what He has given to us.

Communion Opening Prayer

and Words of Institution Rev. Giffone

The ordained minister celebrating the Sacrament offers a prayer of thanksgiving and shares from God's written Word a passage that reminds the congregation of the importance of this act of remembrance.

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

(Please note that the bread/crackers we use for Communion are both gluten-free and dairy-free.)

As you pass the bread/crackers, 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.

The Elements of the Sacrament of Holy Communion consist of the gluten-free wafers of unleavened bread and unfermented grape juice. These common substances represent the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. By partaking of these Elements, we remember the sacrifice of God's Son on the cross of Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus paid the price in our behalf. Unlike some fellow Christians, we do not believe that the Elements are transformed into the actual body and blood of Christ. By passing the Elements from congregation member to congregation member, and by saying the appropriate phrase as the Elements are passed, we recognize our oneness as brothers and sisters in Christ and after receiving each Element, we partake of that Element together.

Note: This is not a distinctly Reformed practice, nor is it the only practice of communion in Reformed churches. Other common practices include: processing forward to receive from elders; common cup; intinction (dipping bread in wine/juice).

Distribution of the Cup: *The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

(Please note that the juice we use for Communion is non-alcoholic grape juice.)

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.

The ordained minister celebrating the Sacrament offers a prayer of thanksgiving, usually pointing to the intended effect of the Sacrament in the life of each believer: sanctification, and mission.

Please use the baskets we have provided in alternate rows for disposal of the used communion cups

The final Hymn reminds us of what we have learned throughout the entirety of the Worship Service regarding the Worship Theme and how it relates to our lives. This Hymn often contains words of commitment that will encourage us throughout the week ahead.

Prayer following Communion Rev. Giffone

***Hymn No. 388:**

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise..... *ELLERS*

The Benediction is a pronouncement of peace from God's written Word for the congregation and a reminder that, in each day that lies ahead, we rely on God to lead us and guide us as we seek to be obedient to Him. After the benediction, the pastor typically recesses (walks down the aisle) to lead the congregation symbolically forth into the world (and to greet people as they leave the sanctuary, especially visitors).

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone

Postlude: *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken* *arr. Larson*

The Worship Service concludes with a Postlude, to serve as a joyful encouragement as the congregation goes out for the week ahead.

The fellowship of the saints is one of the four means of grace, along with prayer/singing, Scripture, and the Sacraments.

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 October

The Prayer Focus for October deals with various aspects of patience. Our society has become so fast-paced, rewarding quick responses over quality service, instant gratification, and no tolerance for values or opinions that are different. In your prayers this month, please take time and wait patiently for the Lord and then begin your conversation with Him:

- Have you been praying for a family member or friend? Wait in a prayerful attitude for the Lord to arrive and then pray for that individual again.
- Is there an older or younger person in your family, who is trying your patience? The young can be too quick and the old too slow to suit us sometimes. Ask the Lord for an extra measure of grace.
- If you are drawn into a political argument, ask the Lord for patience. Then, listen to the other person and hear that one out. Don't try to score your points or change the other person's mind. Listening and tolerating his or her viewpoint does not mean you agree that he or she is right, but perhaps a bit of understanding will result from listening.
- When you give to the church, does your neighbor seem more prosperous? Over time, the Lord will bless you abundantly in other ways. Be patient and watch for those blessings.
- In past months, we have listened to what the Lord may be trying to say to us. It takes practice and patience to allow the Lord to break through the noise, "hectivity," and busyness of daily life.

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

