



# REDEEMER CHURCH

A COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR THE CITY  
**Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—November 24, 2024

*“Blessed Are the Pure in Heart”*

—Matthew 5:8

## Introit

*“Every Day is a Day of Thanksgiving”*

*Ev’ry day is a day of thanksgiving. God’s been so good to me;  
Ev’ry day He’s blessing me. Ev’ry day is a day of thanksgiving;  
Take the time to glorify the Lord today.*

*He keeps blessing me, blessing me. He opens the doors that I might see.  
He’s blessing me. He keeps blessing me, blessing me.  
Take the time to glorify the Lord today.*

## Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

## Time of Greeting

### \* Call to Worship

Revelation 22:1-10

Mr. Jerome Douglas

Director of Neighborhood Outreach & Missions

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.” “And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

### Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Mr. Jerome Douglas

### Assurance of Pardon

Colossians 1:13-14

Mr. Jerome Douglas

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### \* Song of Preparation

*“And We are Glad”*

Hallelujah! You are worthy, Hallelujah! You get the highest praise.  
Hallelujah! You are holy Lord. We exalt your name. Repeat

Chorus: For You have done great things, done great things!

For You have done great things, done great things!

And we are glad, yes we are glad! And we are glad, yes we are glad!

Everlasting, ever giving, ever faithful, You get the highest praise.  
Ever loving, ever living Lord we exalt your name. Repeat. Chorus.

By Your blood we stand forgiven, in Your victory over sin and the grave  
Death is conquered! "He is Risen!" Lord we exalt your name. Repeat. Chorus.

**\* Song of Praise**

*"How Great Thou Art"*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling Thunder, Thy pow'r thro'-out the universe displayed.

**Refrain:** Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to  
Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When thro' the woods, and forest glades I wander and  
hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. (Refrain)

And when I think that God His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on that cross, My burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin. (Refrain)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home,  
what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! (Refrain)

**Old Testament Scripture Reading**

*Psalm 24*

Mr. Jerome Douglas

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah

**Pastoral Prayer**

Dr. Barry McCay

**Worship in Giving**

Dr. Barry McCay

*\*\*Please find the Connect Pad on your pew at this time to sign in and pass it down the row.\*\**

*Visitors: If you would like to be contacted by the church, please include your email address.*

**Choral Worship**

*"When I Think About The Lord"*

Redeemer Choir

When I think about the Lord,  
How he saved me, how he raised me  
How he filled me with the Holy Ghost  
How he healed me to the uttermost

When I think about the Lord  
How he picked me up and turned me around  
How he placed my feet on solid ground (Chorus)

Chorus: It makes me wanna shout  
Hallelujah, Thank you Jesus  
Lord you're worthy, of all the glory, all the honor,  
And all the praise

**Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Sermon Text**

Matthew 5:8  
Pew Bible p. 809

**Sermon Title**

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

**\* Hymn of Faith**

*"Thank You Lord"*

Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you Lord  
I just want to thank you Lord

You've been so good, been so good, you've been so good, you've been so good  
I just want to thank you Lord

You saved my soul, you saved my soul, you saved my soul.  
I just want to thank you Lord

**\* Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**\* Departing Song**

*"The Blessing"*

The Lord bless you and keep you  
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you  
The Lord turn His face toward you  
And give you peace  
Amen, amen, amen

**Prayer Intercessor Team**

Dr. Barry McCay/Mrs. Ellen McCay (8:00am)  
Mr. Herb Sanders/Ms. Diane Johnston (11:00am)

**\*Please Stand.  
(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #257987)**

## SERMON QUESTIONS

### General Questions:

- What was the most encouraging thing from the text and/or the sermon?
- What was the most challenging and convicting?
- What further questions about the text do you have?

### Specific Questions:

- Why did Jesus spend so much time talking about the heart? What was he pushing against? How is this beatitude a gracious corrective for us?
- Can you recall a time when you did a good thing for the wrong reason? It's been said that we must learn to repent not only our evil deeds but our good deeds done with evil motives. Can you relate?
- How would you have defined "pure in heart" before studying this beatitude and other passages mentioned in the sermon? Was your definition tweaked?
- What does the Bible mean when it refers to "the heart?"
- Who alone can purify it? When does God do this?
- The Bible also seems to support that once our heart has been "sprinkled clean" by God, we must also attend to it so that it does not grow cold or hardened. What does the Bible command of us to help us maintain our purified hearts? Who has promised to help us?
- Jesus reminds us of a promise that's so easily forgotten in this beatitude. Simply put, we shall one day behold our God. How does seeing God, by faith now and more clearly in the future, help us on our way home? How do 1 John 3:2-3 and Revelation 22 move us to pursue holiness now?

## **SERMON NOTES**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—November 24, 2024

*“Blessed Are the Pure in Heart”*

—Matthew 5:8

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

[redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday)

**Connect Pad:** Please find the Connect Pad on your pew and sign in. This helps us keep track of Members and Visitors alike.



### **More Information:**

On the QR Code you'll find links to announcements and online giving.

### **\*\*\* PRAYER REQUESTS/UPDATES \*\*\***

- Tu & Caroline Combs: As Caroline undergoes treatment for stage 4 breast cancer. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for Take Them a Meal.
- Katie Trotter: Comfort, hope, and peace in Christ through breast and bone cancer .See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for Take Them a Meal.
- Lydia Abraham: Mito Disease, Stage 4 Liver Cirrhosis, pain management and wisdom for doctors in her treatment. For updates on Lydia and the Abraham's Take Them a Meal, please see QR Code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday).

### **\*\*\*SEEKING TO SERVE\*\*\***

### **Serve Day at Hopeful Community Outreach, Nov 26**

Help Hopeful Community Outreach (a neighborhood food pantry and more!) share food and hope with people from our community. Volunteers will help in 4 main ways: 1) packing non-perishable food into bags or boxes; 2) cooking & plating a hot lunch to share; 3) helping to direct traffic as people drive up to pick up their food boxes; 4) interacting with drivers and passengers through offering prayer, food, fliers, etc. We'll serve from 9:00am-1:00pm at Hopeful Community Outreach. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) more information and to sign up.

### **A Sweet Christmas Outreach, Dec 7**

If you love baking and have a heart for serving others, we'd love for you to join us! Join us at the church from 8:00am-12:00pm for a special opportunity to bake delicious treats for our community. The cookies we make will be shared by the Missions Committee to spread the good news of the gospel and invite our neighbors to experience the joy of Christmas at Redeemer Church. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information and to sign up.

### **RED Christmas Deliveries, Dec 14**

It is time for our RED Christmas deliveries! Join us for a morning of delivering Christmas cheer and gifts to families in our church and community touched by disability on December 14th. We will meet at the church at 9:00 am to enjoy treats, wrap gifts, and pray before dividing up into groups to drive to the homes to visit our families. Adults, children, youth, families – all are welcome! This is a fun time for all ages. We also need help your help purchasing gifts. Click here for more info about the event, gift needs, and to sign up.

### **Community Garden Workday, Dec 14**

We will be harvesting veggies, pulling weeds, and performing routine maintenance in the garden. This event is open to all ages and levels of experience. Join us as we continue to cultivate and beautify our neighborhood garden as a way of loving our neighbors. The garden is located at the corner of Londonderry and Robinhood behind the church, and we'll gather from 5:30-7:30pm. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information and to sign up.

\*\*\* CALLED TO CONNECT \*\*\*

### **Sing with The Redeemer Ensemble, Dec 1**

The Redeemer Ensemble, an a cappella group, will sing an advent work, "Light", on Sunday, Dec 1, at both the 8:00 and 11:00am services. There will be two rehearsals scheduled, one on Nov 23 in the morning, and Nov 30 in the late afternoon. If you are interested in singing with the ensemble, please contact Stan Wagon at [stan@burrswagon.com](mailto:stan@burrswagon.com) for details.

### **Thanksgiving Service, Nov 24, 5pm**

Join us tonight, Nov 24, as we practice gratitude and prepare our hearts for the Thanksgiving holiday with our Thanksgiving service. Following the service, we'll enjoy a "Taste and See that The Lord is Good" soup fest together, provided by the church. Bring a dessert to share! Nursery will not be provided.

### **Save The Date: Redeemer Together, Apr 4-5, 2025**

Mark your calendars for Redeemer Together, our bi-yearly church wide retreat! This is a chance for our church to take a step back from our typical routine and to simply enjoy being with one another in a unique setting.

#### **Here's what to expect:**

- one night retreat
- only 30 minutes away at a beautiful and comfortable conference center (Twin Lakes)
- breaking bread together, turning to Gods word, and enjoying His creation.

See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information and to signup.



\*\*\* NEWS TO NOTE \*\*\*

### **FREE Christmas Devotional: Everyday Gospel Christmas Devotional**

As you begin planning for Advent, we have received roughly 200 of Paul David Tripp's Everyday Gospel Christmas Devotional, and you can pick up your FREE copy in the Narthex on Sunday (limit 1 per family, please). We hope your Advent season is full of expectation of the joy of the coming of the king!

### **Now Accepting Applications for the Director of Women's Ministry**

Redeemer is looking to hire a Director of Women's Ministry. This is a salaried, 20-hour-per-week position. The deadline for applications (and the written reference) is **Jan 31**. Know anyone who you think might serve Redeemer well in this role? All the information about the Director of Women's Ministry position and search process is available through the QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday).

### **Now Accepting Applications for the Director of Music Ministry**

Our search is underway for a Director of Music Ministry. This is a salaried, part-time position (targeting 25-30 hours/week) with potential to grow into full-time role. We are accepting applications through **Jan 17**. Know someone who might be interested? See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information.



**\*\*\* Redeemer Kids \*\*\***  
**K4-5th Grade**

**Children's Church, Dec 7**

Introduction to the Apostles Creed: "I believe in God The Father Almighty".  
8:00am service only, ages 4-5.

**Upside Down (K4-5th), Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm**

Upside Down, our weekly gathering for Elementary schoolers, will resume on January 29. Contact Jajuan McNeil at [mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com) for more information.

**\*\*\* Redeemer Youth \*\*\***  
**6th-12th Grade**

**Crossroads (6th-8th), Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm**

Crossroads, our weekly Youth Group gathering for Middle Schoolers, will resume on Jan 29. For more information contact Wilson Jamison at [wjamison@redeem-erjackson.com](mailto:wjamison@redeem-erjackson.com).

**Rooted (9th-12th), Sundays 5:30-7:00pm**

Rooted, our weekly gathering for High School students, will resume for the spring semester on Sunday, Jan 26. For more information contact Wilson Jamison at [wjamison@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:wjamison@redeemerjackson.com).

## **Fall Adult Sunday School, Block 2**

**9:45-10:35am**

**2024 Fall Adult Sunday School, Block 2  
began on Oct 27 and concludes on Dec 8.**

### **Anxiety: Heart, Home, and the House of God**

**Teacher:** Zack Owens

**Location:** Sanctuary

The angels of the Lord frequently tell people “do not be afraid.” In Matthew 6, Jesus repeatedly says not to be anxious. Paul tells us to be anxious for nothing (Phil 4:6) and Peter tells us to “cast all our anxieties” on Jesus (1 Pet 5:7).

But that is not the end of the story. Paul also admits to feeling “the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches” (2 Cor 11:28). Jesus was in sweaty agony anticipating the cross (Luke 22:44). How can we respond when we DO experience this inevitable anticipatory fear of an unknown future – personally and within groups? As followers of Jesus, we will learn many of the causes of anxiety, and some of the spiritual and practical resources we have to face it with courage and hope.

### **Women’s Class: Lamentations & Prayer**

**Teachers:** KC Jones, Khambile Perry, Anna Splaingard,  
Martha Turner, Beth Watts

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

This class is designed for the women of Redeemer Church to come together to study the book of Lamentations, to fellowship, and to pray for one another. We will primarily focus on the layers of lament and examine each poem in light of living as exiles with hope in a hopeless world.

Great insight can be gained from looking at God’s character through the lens of poetic lament and it is an added joy and privilege to do so with our sisters in Christ. In this class, a team of women will take on the challenge of teaching and use their individual gifts to bless the group. Each class will be opened for discussion to complement the lecture and will include a time of prayer.

### **Disciple Making through Spiritual Disciplines**

**Teachers:** Luke Drake, Brian Gault, Jerome Douglas

**Location:** Room 109

Discipleship happens every day as we practice Spiritual Disciplines.

In this class we will explore faith and practice in 7 disciplines: gospel, repentance, faith, justification and sanctification, word, prayer, and church. Studying God’s word together becomes the very means of discipleship—and the goal is that at the end of the class we will have a word-centered, relationally-driven curriculum that any believer can use in discipleship with our friends, children, and co-workers, with both new believers and mature believers.

This is a way of practicing the Christian life together to become more like Christ under his word. It’s the essence of discipleship—and this class will give you a tool and a framework to disciple both yourself and others!

# Fall Children & Youth Sunday School

2024 Fall Children & Youth Sunday School began on Sept 8  
and concludes Dec 8.

## Youth (6th-12th): New City Catechism

**Location:** Youth Room

**HS Teachers:** Corrie Keplinger, Rob Vickery, Cadden Christie,  
Stephanie Greer, Wilson Jamison

**MS Teachers:** Wilson Jamison, Stephanie Greer, Corrie Keplinger,  
Hermes Tomas

Catechisms are a time-tested tool of discipleship. They are interactive by design, easy to memorize, rooted in the Bible, and theologically rich.

Catechisms were written:

1. To explain the gospel comprehensively. Catechisms sharpen our understanding of the gospel by building out biblical doctrines and investigating the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer.
2. To counteract false beliefs. Catechisms lay out biblical doctrine to address contemporary cultural questions, errors, and false beliefs.
3. To cultivate communal holiness. Catechisms create a shared language of belief to cultivate a community that corporately reflects the character of Christ.

Written in 2017, the New City Catechism stands on the rich theological tradition of the Heidelberg Catechism (1563) and Westminster Shorter Catechism (1648) but uses modern language shaped to address contemporary questions.

## Children's (K4-5th): Investigating God's Word

This fall, RedeemerKids will be transitioning to a new Sunday school material entitled "Investigating God's Word." All classes K4-5th Grade will be working chapter by chapter through Genesis 1-24.

### **K4-K5: Room 209/211**

#### **Teachers:**

Morgan Barber, Sarah Love Crawford,  
Rachel Habarger

### **3rd Grade: Room 205/206**

#### **Teachers:**

Andrea Burks, Page Callen,  
Christa Williams

### **1st Grade: Room 210**

#### **Teachers:**

Claire Graves, Krisan Parish,  
Khambile Perry

### **4th Grade: Room 204**

#### **Teachers:**

Samuel Bolen, Gabriel Garcia, Jake Garner,  
Angela Simpkins

### **2nd Grade: Room 207**

#### **Teachers:**

Haley Arndt, Tyler Espinoza, Kristen Owens

### **5th Grade: Room 202**

#### **Teachers:**

Liz Callen, Gene Everitt, Amanda McGuffey

## Nursery (2-3): Genesis

This fall, our Nursery Sunday School Classes are learning about God's Character through the book of Genesis as well as reviewing Catechism Questions.

## THIS WEEK

### Deacon on Call Week of Nov 24

Thomas Wallace, 601.955.5998

### Sunday, Nov 24

- 8:00am Worship Service  
Livestream Available  
9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service  
5:00pm Thanksgiving Evening Service  
& Supper

### Monday, Nov 25

Church Office Closed-  
Week of Thanksgiving

### Tuesday, Nov 26

- 6:00pm GriefShare  
7:00pm Choir Practice

### Wednesday, Nov 27

### Thursday, Nov 28

### Friday, Nov 29

### Saturday, Nov 30

### Sunday, Dec 1

- 8:00am Worship Service  
Livestream Available  
9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service

## STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship  
Zack Owens, Asst Pastor of Congregational Care  
Wilson Jamison, Asst Pastor of Youth Ministry  
Stephanie Greer, Assistant Youth Director  
Jajuan McNeil, Director of Children's Ministry  
Joya McNeil, Children's Ministry Assistant  
Jerome Douglas, Dir Neighborhood Outreach & Missions  
Velma Warner, Nursery Coordinator  
Corrie Keplinger, Communications & Events Coordinator  
Tina Collier, Administrative Assistant  
Josh Anderson, Intern  
Joshua Coleman, Intern  
Ian Deffenbaugh, Intern  
Chael Williams, Intern  
Interim Music Ministry Team:  
Joyce Hamme, Arthur Phillips, Kateri Gill, Akida Mosby  
Haley Arndt, Women's Committee Chair

## RULING ELDERS

Grant Callen  
Tu Combs  
Gene Dent  
Scott Marshall  
Barry McCay  
Kelle Menogan, Sr.  
Marculis Mosby  
Herb Sanders  
Andy Sauerwein  
William Stackler  
Trey Watkins

## DEACONS

Karl Arndt  
Grafton Bragg  
Philip Carter  
Davidson Forester  
Jon Fults  
David Garner  
Jake Garner  
Levi Gill  
Reid Haygood  
John Hooker  
Detrick Johnson  
Baskin Jones  
Guin Kendrick  
Blaise King  
Greg Ross  
Jeremy Smith  
Ellis Tucker  
Johnston Walker  
Thomas Wallace  
Tamarco White

## COMING UP:

Dec 14: RED Christmas Deliveries  
Dec 14: Saturday Serve: Community Garden  
Workday  
Dec 22: Combined Worship Service  
Dec 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Dec 24-Jan 1: Church Office Closed  
Dec 29: Combined Worship Service  
Jan 6: Session Meeting  
Jan 10-11: A Holy Heritage Women's Conference  
Jan 12: Diaconate Meeting  
Feb 6: 20th Anniversary Service & Reception  
Feb 16: Missions Month Begins  
Apr 4-5: Redeemer Together

