



REDEEMER CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—March 23, 2025
“Practicing Righteous Generosity The Right Way”
—Matthew 6:1-4

Reflection Quote

"Jesus begins this section with beware of doing your righteousness before other people. The word used for righteousness is the same in 5:6 and 5:20. Yet, while the word is the same, the emphasis has shifted. Previously, righteousness related to kindness, purity, honesty, and love; now it concerns practices such as giving to the needy, praying and fasting. We must never forget that true Christian righteousness has these two dimensions: moral and religious. We must NOT choose one over the other as many do."

—John Stott

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Time of Greeting

* Call to Worship

Galatians 3:10-14

Rev. Zack Owens

Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Rev. Zack Owens

Assurance of Pardon

Colossians 1:13-14

Rev. Zack Owens

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

"Lord You're Mighty"

Say, Lord, You're mighty (Lord, You're mighty)

Lord, You're mighty (Lord, You're mighty) Repeat as directed

Oh Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth

You set Your glory above the heavens and the earth

When I think of all You've made, the sun, the moon and the stars

No praise is high enough to express how great You are

Chorus: What a mighty God we serve, Mighty God we serve

Angels would bow before the mighty God we serve

What a mighty God we serve, Mighty God we serve

Let heaven and the earth adore the mighty God we serve. Repeat as directed

Hallelujah (Hallelujah)
All glory (all glory)
All honor (all honor)
All praise (all praise)
All praise (all praise) Chorus

*** Song of Praise**

"Awesome Wonder"

Provider, Defender, Master of the Universe, You know me.
You are an Awesome Wonder. *Repeat*

Oh, what a wonder You are. Oh, You are an awesome wonder. *Repeat*
You know me, my weakness. You know just where I hurt the most,
that's why I call You healer. *Repeat*

Oh, what a healer You are. Oh, You are an awesome healer! *Repeat*
Your kingdom, established. You rule the heavens and the earth.
In my life, You are an awesome ruler!

Oh, what a ruler You are. Oh, You are an awesome ruler.
You called me from darkness. You claimed my heart and made it Yours.
That's why I call you Savior! *Repeat*

Oh, what a Savior You are. Oh, You are an awesome Savior.

New Testament Scripture Reading *John 2:1-12*

Rev. Zack Owens

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Trey Watkins, Ruling Elder

Worship in Giving

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

****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
Thank you to those giving online.*

Choral Worship

I Will Bless The Lord at all Times

Redeemer Choir

All:

Chorus: I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good. Repeat as directed

*Lead: In every situation God has been with me, through the good and the bad times
He stayed all the way through trouble and trials, toils and strife.
So, I'm gonna bless Him for the rest of my life. Chorus*

Lead:

God is good all the time, and all the time God is so good. He gave us a Savior; He was His only Son and through His death my life has begun. *Chorus*

All:

Special Chorus: He's good, Yes, He's good, I know the Lord is good. Praise God for His Goodness. *Chorus*

He's good, so good, He's good. Every day of my life, I'll bless the Lord, for He's good.

Lead:

Living Water, Bread of Life; In the midst of darkness, He is the Light. Weeping may endure for a night, but in the morning everything will be alright. *Chorus*

All:

Chorus: I will bless the Lord at all times, He's good. *Repeat as directed*

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Sermon Text

Matthew 6:1-4

Pew Bible p. 811

Sermon Title

Practicing Righteous Generosity The Right Way

*** Hymn of Faith**

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' Name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay. *Refrain*

*** Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*** Departing Song**

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne. *Refrain*

Prayer Intercessor Team

Mr. Jeremy Smith & Mrs. Alli Smith (8:00am)

Mr. Ellis Tucker & Mrs. Shirley Tucker (11:00am)

***Please Stand.**

(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #257987)

SERMON QUESTIONS

- John Stott points out that in Matthew 5, Jesus focuses on moral dimensions (kindness, purity, honesty, love), while in Matthew 6 He highlights “religious” practices (giving, prayer, fasting). Stott says, “We must never forget that true Christian righteousness has these two dimensions, moral and religious. We must not choose one over the other as many do.” Why is it vital to keep both moral conduct and spiritual practices in balance? Which side—moral or devotional—comes more naturally to you, and why?
- In the sermon we saw that generosity is the broader category and giving to the needy is a part of that. What evidence in the sermon supported this idea? Do you agree with this perspective? Why or why not?
- As you reflect on your own (or your family’s) budget, consider whether your financial resources flow into two main “buckets”: one for your needs and some wants, and another devoted to God’s kingdom, the church’s work, and generosity to those in need. Jesus doesn’t specify the amount we give but emphasizes the practice of giving. In what ways is this both encouraging and challenging?
- Jesus isn’t opposed to doing good works publicly (He ministered to crowds and told us to be a “light”). What evidence from the sermon shows He approves of good deeds being seen? What is He warning us about, and why is that distinction essential?
- Can you recall a time you did something “good” for the wrong reason, perhaps seeking recognition or praise? Do you currently struggle with craving others’ approval or applause? What does that tension look like in your life?
- How does the good news of Jesus both convict us of our mixed motives and capture our hearts so we can practice radical generosity for the right reasons?
- Jesus says the Father “sees in secret and rewards” (Matt. 6:4). How does looking ahead to God’s “well done” affect the way you give or serve? How does God give us present joy and protection as we practice generosity? In what ways is God’s reward deeper and more enduring than any human praise you could receive? Galatians 5:13-15

SERMON NOTES

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—March 23, 2025

“Practicing Righteous Generosity The Right Way”

—Matthew 6:1-4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 ***

- Kathryn & Amile Wilson: As they grieve the loss of Kathryn's father.
- The Abraham Family; Ashley, Liz, Esther, Bethany and Arianna: As they grieve the loss of Lydia, and Liz's mother, Martha Lavallee.
- Nancy Beal: Recovery from knee replacement surgery.
- Grace Marsh: Treatment for cardiac issues.
- Thomas Eaves, son of Sterling & Lizzie Eaves: Diagnosed with Leukemia.
- Tu & Caroline Combs: As Caroline undergoes treatment for stage 4 breast cancer.
- Katie Trotter: Comfort, hope, and peace in Christ through breast and bone cancer.

See QR Code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for updates and Take Them a Meal.

SEEKING TO SERVE

Collecting Donations for Teacher Appreciation Week, Mar 2-Apr 26

Join us as we support and serve the great teachers of our community during Teacher Appreciation Week! We'll be taking donations from Mar 2-Apr 26 to use in gift bags that will be assembled and distributed as part of Saturday Serve on Apr 26. Look for the drop off bins in the fellowship hall and narthex! You can find more information, including a list of suggested items to donate, through the QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday.

Community Garden Workday, Apr 12

Join us for a Community Garden Workday! 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 Robinhood and Londonderry behind the church, we'll meet there from 9:00am-12:00pm. See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday to sign up!

*** CALLED TO CONNECT ***

Redeemer Together, Apr 4-5

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 God's word, and enjoying His creation.

See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information and to sign up.



*** NEWS TO NOTE ***

Invite a Friend to Church

As we think about being missional, prayerfully consider inviting someone to church this week. In *The Great Dechurching*, Jim Davis says the #1 reason people return to church is **personal invitation**. Invite them to check us out online, or offer to meet them at the door and sit with you during the service.

Redeemer Explored Begins Mar 30

If you are interested in joining Redeemer or know someone who is, Redeemer Explored is a Sunday School class that explores who we are and what we believe. Pastor Elbert leads this class during the Sunday School hour (9:45 - 10:35am), for 7 weeks from March 30 - May 11. Email Brian Gault at bgault@redeemerjackson.com for more info or to hold your seat in the class.

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 **Mar 17**. Know someone who might be interested? See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information.

***Spring Adult Sunday School, Block 1,
Concludes Mar 23***

**Culture Making: Fellowship Hall
Sharing Our Grief: Sanctuary**

***Spring Adult Sunday School, Block 2
9:45-10:35am***

***2025 Spring Adult Sunday School, Block 2
begins Mar 30 and concludes May 11.***

Gospel Conversations

Teachers: Jerome Douglas, Marculis Mosby

Location: Fellowship Hall

Interested in having more meaningful conversations about your faith? Join us for our 'Gospel Conversations' Sunday School class! We'll explore practical tools and biblical principles to help you share the Gospel with confidence and clarity. Think of it as a chance to learn together in an encouraging environment.

We'll be using key chapters from Preston Perry's 'How to Tell the Truth' as a guide, sparking discussions and providing valuable insights. Whether you're just starting to explore how to talk about your faith or you're looking to refine your approach, this class is for you.

We'll focus on creating authentic connections and fostering genuine dialogue, so you can feel more comfortable and equipped to share the Gospel. Come join the conversation!

Jonah: You Can't Outrun the Grace of God

Teacher: Brian Gault

Location: Sanctuary

Jonah is about a violent city, a resistant prophet, and a merciful God. In 58 verses, there's a storm at sea, the conversion of pagan sailors, a prayer in the belly of a fish, the repentance of Israel's archenemy, and a prophet who's angry at God.

The story begins with Jonah running from the word of the Lord and the presence of the Lord. At the heart of the story is the mercy of God, that not only forgives the vilest of sinners, but also relentlessly pursues the heart of a prophet steeped in judgmental nationalism.

To rescue Jonah, God hurls a storm, and appoints a fish, a plant, a worm, and a scorching wind—all the show Jonah (and by extension us!) the unsearchable depth of the grace of God.

Redeemer Explored

Teachers: Elbert McGowan, Jr., Barry McCay

Location: Room 109

Would you like to know more about Redeemer Church? Are you interested in becoming a member? If so, you need to take this class. Pastor Elbert McGowan, along with the elders, will teach this 7-week introductory course on the ins and outs of Redeemer Church and how you can get involved.

If you are ready to join Redeemer or have further questions, you will have the opportunity to meet with an elder at the end of the class (May 11).

Spring Children & Youth Sunday School
2025 Spring Children & Youth Sunday School began Jan 26
and concludes May 11.

Youth (6th-12th): Ten Commandments

Location: Youth Room

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

MS Teachers: Anna Lois Callen, Lane Morgan, Josh Anderson,
Stephanie Greer, Wilson Jamison

After God delivered Israel from Egypt, He gave the Ten Commandments to them. But what for? And does the law have any use today? We will address questions like these and more, such as, "What is the purpose of the law? How does Jesus relate to the law? What does God's law mean for me today?" By studying God's law, we will see the heart of the Law-maker, how Jesus fulfills the law, and how God's law applies to us today. If you are in 6th-12th grade, come join us as we study the Ten Commandments this Spring!

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

This spring, RedeemerKids is continuing through "Investigating God's Word."
All classes K4-5th Grade will be working chapter by chapter through Genesis 25-50.

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

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): The Gospels

This spring, our Nursery Sunday School classes are learning about God's Son and God's love as they explore the Gospels, pointing them to Jesus and their need for Him.

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

Communicants Class Begins Mar 30

Communicants Class is a six week course during the Sunday School hour from Mar 30 - May 11. It is an avenue for 3rd-8th graders at Redeemer to walk through the core beliefs of the Christian faith and then have opportunity to give a credible profession of faith to an elder in order to become a communing member. Participants are required to attend at least half of the classes. Email Jajuan McNeil at mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com to sign up.

Children's Church, Apr 6

Introduction to the Apostles Creed: "Was crucified, died and was buried."
8:00am service only, for ages 4-5.

Upside Down (K4-5th)

Elementary students are invited to join us at Upside Down, our weekly time of fun, fellowship, and studying God's word! We meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday Evenings, Jan 26-Apr 16 (not Mar 5, Mar 12) from 6:00-7:00pm. Contact Jajuan McNeil at mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com for more information.

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

High School Girls Small Group

High School girls, come join us as we study the Fruit of the Spirit this semester. This is a great time to study God's Word together, get to know others, and pray for one another. We'll meet Tuesdays from 4:15-5:15pm in the church library. See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information.

Rooted (9th-12th)

High Schoolers, we would love for you to join us for Rooted this semester. At Rooted, we get to unpack God's Word and enjoy fellowship together with some laughter (and food) along the way. We meet Sunday evenings, Jan 26-Apr 13 (not Mar 2, Mar 9) from 5:30-7:00pm in the Youth Room. For more information contact Wilson Jamison at wjamison@redeemerjackson.com.

Crossroads (6th-8th)

Join us for Crossroads, our weekly Youth Group gathering for Middle Schoolers. We play games, eat pizza, and get to study God's Word together! We meet on Wednesday's, Jan 26-Apr 16 (not Mar 5, Mar 12) from 6:00-7:30pm in the Youth Room. For more information contact Wilson Jamison at wjamison@redeemerjackson.com.

THIS WEEK

Deacon on Call Week of Mar 23

Lane Morgan, 601.573.3131

Sunday, Mar 23

8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
5:30pm Rooted

Monday, Mar 24

6:00pm GriefShare

Tuesday, Mar 25

7:00am Women's Bible Study
4:15pm High School Girls Bible Study
7:00pm Choir Practice
7:30pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, Mar 26

9:00am Mom's Bible Study
6:00pm Upside Down
6:00pm Crossroads
6:00pm Women's Bible Study
6:00pm Habits of the Household
Book Discussion
6:00pm Hope Exchange
Community Group

Thursday, Mar 27

12:00pm Women's Bible Study

Friday, Mar 28

Saturday, Mar 29

8:30am Men's Basketball

Sunday, Mar 30

8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available
9:45am Adult Sunday School
Block 2 Begins
11:00am Worship Service
5:30pm Rooted
Various Sunday Growth Groups

STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor
Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherd & 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, Meg Mills, Akida Mosby
Haley Arndt, Women's Committee Chair

RULING ELDERS

Karl Arndt
Grant Callen
Tu Combs
Gene Dent
Baskin Jones
Scott Marshall
Barry McCay
Kelle Menogan, Sr.
Marculis Mosby
CL Pearce
Herb Sanders
Andy Sauerwein
William Stackler
Rob Vickery
Trey Watkins

DEACONS

Grafton Bragg
Philip Carter
Preston Denley
Davidson Forester
Jon Fults
David Garner
Jake Garner
Clayton Gressett
Reid Haygood
Detrick Johnson
Guin Kendrick
Blaise King
Jonathan Lancaster
Lane Morgan
Greg Ross
Jaimar Scott
Seth Shannon
Jonathan Shull
Jeremy Smith
Ellis Tucker
Johnston Walker
Tamarco White

COMING UP:

Apr 4-5: Redeemer Together
Apr 7: Session & Diaconate Meetings
Apr 10: RYA Contentment Bible Discussion
Apr 12: Community Garden Workday0
Apr 17: Maundy Thursday Service
Apr 27: Children & Youth Sunday
May 1: RYA Contentment Bible Discussion
May 5: Session & Diaconate Meetings
May 20: Community Garden Workday



redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday