

REDEEMER CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—April 20, 2025
“One Empty Tomb—Three Different Responses!”
—Matthew 27:62-28:15

Reflection Quote

“Something perfectly new in the history of the universe had happened. Christ had defeated death. The door which had always been locked had for the first time been forced open...You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon (you can lie on his name or deny his existence); or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”
—C.S. Lewis

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Introit

“It Wasn’t The Nails”

Chorus: It wasn't the nails that held Him to the cross
He could have come down, but my soul would still be lost
The ransom was so high, only He could pay the cost;
It wasn't the nails that held Him to the cross. *Repeat*

He was wounded for our transgressions
Bruised for our iniquity
By His stripes we were healed, as He hung there at Calvary
He was lifted up from the earth, in order to draw all men;
It was love that held Him there,
and that same love covers our sins. *Chorus*

For God so loved the world
that He gave His only Son
No greater love had been given to anyone
The Son gave His life, it wasn't taken by men;
He had the power to lay it down
He had the power to take it up again. *Chorus*
Power. *Repeat as directed.*

It wasn't the nails that held him, to the cross! *Repeat as directed*

* Call to Worship

Isaiah 25:6-9

Rev. Brian Gault

Assistant Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Rev. Brian Gault

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53:5

Rev. Brian Gault

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

*** Song of Preparation**

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

Chorus: You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

*** Song of Praise**

“Glorious Day”

I was buried beneath my shame, who could carry that kind of weight?
It was my tomb, 'til I met You.

I was breathing, but not alive, all my failures I tried to hide.
It was my tomb, 'til I met You.

You called my name, then I ran out of that grave.
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day.
You called my name, and I ran out of that grave.
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day.

Now Your mercy has saved my soul, now Your freedom is all that I know.
The old made new—Jesus, when I met You.
When you called my name, and I ran out of that grave.
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day.
You called my name, then I ran out of that grave.
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day.

I needed rescue, my sin was heavy, but chains break at the weight of Your glory.
I needed shelter, I was an orphan, but You call me a citizen of Heaven.
When I was broken, You were my healing.
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing. I have a future, my eyes are open,
'Cause when you called my name, I ran out of that grave.
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day.
You called my name, and I ran out of that grave.
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day

New Testament Scripture Readings *Matthew 12:38-42*

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

Matthew 17:22

As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men..."

Matthew 26:26-28

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Scott Marshall, Ruling Elder

Worship in Giving

Mr. Scott Marshall

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

"Up From the Grave"

Redeemer Choir

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior!
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
and He lives forever with His saints to reign.
Up from the grave. Repeat x4

Chorus: Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus, my Savior!
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
Up from the grave. Repeat x4

Chorus

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus, my Savior!
He tore the bars away, tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
and He lives forever with His saints to reign.
Up from the grave, Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Sermon Text

Matthew 27:62-28:15

Pew Bible p. 835

Sermon Title

One Empty Tomb—Three Different Responses!

*** Hymn of Faith**

“Christ The Lord is Risen Today”

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Earth and Heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Love's Redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

*** Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*** Departing Song**

“Christ The Lord is Risen Today”

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Prayer Intercessor Team

Mr. Scott Marshall & Mrs. Helen Marshall (8:00am)

Mr. Marculis Mosby & Ms. Diane Johnston (11:00am)

***Please Stand.**

(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #257987)

SERMON QUESTIONS

- What part of the sermon most stood out to you, and why?
- As you reflect on the three types of responses to Jesus' resurrection—opposing, open, and embracing—which one best describes where you are right now, and what do you think God is calling you to do in response?
- The soldiers and religious leaders saw powerful evidence, yet they resisted or covered it up. What does this teach us about how pride, fear, love for money, or control can keep us from trusting in Jesus?
- The women were told “Do not be afraid,” and were welcomed to see the empty tomb. Furthermore, Jesus called his failing disciples his brothers. What does this reveal about how Jesus receives those who seek him—and how might that offer comfort to you today?
- Some of the guards did not go along with the cover-up. What might Matthew be showing us through that small detail? How does that offer hope to people who are still undecided or wrestling with belief?
- Whatever posture you showed up with today—opposed to Jesus, open but unsure, or already embracing him—what do you sense your next step should be in response to the resurrection?
 - *If you've been resisting Jesus, what might repentance look like today—turning from yourself to trust in him?*
 - *If you're open but uncertain, what would it look like to keep exploring or even take a first step of faith today?*
 - *If you're already trusting him, how can you respond with fresh worship, rest, obedience, or witness this week?*

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 ***

- Christa Williams and Family: As they grieve the loss of Christa's brother.
- Family & Friends of Juanita Martin: As they grieve the loss of Juanita.
- Family & Friends of Katie Trotter: As they grieve the loss of Katie.
- Kathryn & Amile Wilson: As they grieve the loss of Kathryn's father.
- Nancy Beal: Recovery from knee replacement surgery.
- Thomas Eaves, son of Sterling & Lizzie Eaves: In remission from Leukemia.
- Tu & Caroline Combs: As Caroline undergoes treatment for stage 4 breast cancer.

Births

Judah Michael Missel, 4.15.25, Son of Nick & Mia Missel.

Bezalel Sower Gill & Perpetua Solace Gill, 4.08.25, Covenant Children of Levi & Kateri Gill.

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

SEEKING TO SERVE

Children & Youth Sunday, Apr 27

Calling all Redeemer Youth! Do you sing or play an instrument? If you're interested in helping to lead worship during Children & Youth Sunday on Apr 27, reach out to Akida Mosby at akidamosby@yahoo.com to find out how you can participate!

Serve in the Nursery

We are in need of volunteers for both the 8:00 and 11:00am services, as well as teachers for our 2 & 3 year old nursery Sunday school classes. Volunteering and teaching are great ways to help to shepherd some of the littlest of our flock. Contact Velma Warner at vwarner@redeemerjackson.com to learn more and to serve!

Serve with RedeemerKids: Summer Children's Church Leaders

RedeemerKids needs dedicated leaders to help teach and guide children in a fun, safe, and diverse environment as they learn God's word and gain a deeper understanding of our confessions and creeds. As a Children's Church Leader, you'll have the opportunity to make a lasting impact in the lives of kids from all backgrounds while growing in community with fellow volunteers. For more information or to sign up, contact Jajuan McNeil at mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com Summer Children's church meets four times, June 1, 15; July 6, 20. In order to have summer children's church we will need 2 teachers and 6 adult leaders to volunteer.

Serve with RedeemerKids: Summer Sunday School Teachers

Redeemer Church is seeking dedicated leaders to serve in Sunday School, where you will teach the Bible, build relationships with children and their families, and create safe spaces for kids to explore and interrogate their faith. As a Sunday School Leader, you'll have the opportunity to make a lasting impact on young hearts and minds in a diverse and welcoming community. For Sunday school, we need 4 assistant leaders and 4 adult teachers. For more details or to sign up, please contact Jajuan McNeil at mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com.

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.

Saturday Serve: Assembling Gift Bags for Teacher Appreciation Week, Apr 26

On Apr 26 from 9:00am-12:00pm, Saturday Serve will be assembling gift bags to distribute to teachers at The Redeemer's School, Boyd Elementary, McWillie Elementary, Smillow Prep, and Brinkley/Powell Middle School. We'll also be taking donations for the gift bags from March 2-April 26, look for the drop off bins in the fellowship hall and narthex! See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for a list of items to donate and to sign up for the serve day.

Community Garden Workday, May 10

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 ***

RYA Contentment Bible Discussion, May 1

Come join RYA for Tacos and scripture discussion at the McGowan home (address in RYA GroupMe). Please bring a taco topping to share! Contact Susanna Reese at zanreese@gmail.com with any questions about the event. See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday to join the RYA GroupMe.

*** NEWS TO NOTE ***

Redeemer Officer Update

As of the April 7 Session meeting, Guin Kendrick has rolled off the diaconate. Thank you, Guin, for your many years of faithful service, your thoughtful questions, and your pursuit of excellence. Your welcoming presence, passion for Jesus, curiosity, and wisdom will be missed.

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

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 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

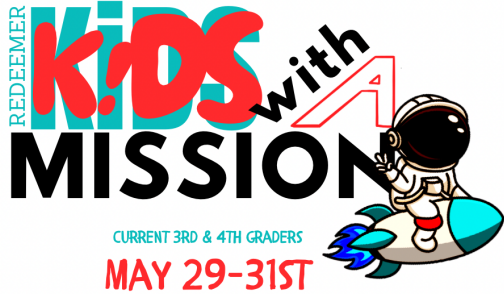
Nursery (2-3): The Gospels

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

Save The Date: Kids With a Mission, May 29-31

KWAM is for rising fourth and fifth graders and their parents; it gives the chance for our kids to lock hands with missions and missionaries here in Jackson. We want to promote our families loving where we live! See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information and to sign up.



Children's Church, Apr 20

Introduction to the Apostles Creed: "He descended into hades." 8:00am service only, for ages 4-5.

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

Youth Senior Night, Apr 23

6th-12th graders, come join us at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner to celebrate our 2025 graduates! We will get to hear graduates' favorite memories from their time in Redeemer Youth, ways they've seen God at work, and what they're going to be doing after High School.

High School Picnic & Games at The Park, Apr 27

High Schoolers, come join us at Laurel Street Park in Belhaven for a picnic and games. Bring your own picnic dinner, invite a friend, and bring a ball or outdoor game if you want to! Youth Staff will bring dessert. We'll gather from 5:30-7:00pm, reach out to Stephanie Greer at sgreer@redeemerjackson.com with any questions.

High School Gathering at The Jamison's, May 4

High Schoolers, come hang out at the Jamison's home from 5:30-7:00pm on May 4! Please RSVP to Wilson at wjamison@redeemerjackson.com to let us know if you can be there!

THIS WEEK

Deacon on Call Week of Apr 20

Jonathan Shull, 601. 874.3440

Sunday, Apr 20

8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
Various Sunday Growth Groups

Monday, Apr 21

Church Office Closed
6:00pm GriefShare

Tuesday, Apr 22

5:30pm Community Garden Workday
7:00am Women's Bible Study
7:00pm Choir Practice
7:30pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, Apr 23

6:00pm Youth Senior Night
6:00pm Habits of the Household
Book Discussion
6:00pm Hope Exchange
Community Group

Thursday, Apr 24

12:00pm Women's Bible Study

Friday, Apr 25

Saturday, Apr 26

8:30am Men's Basketball
9:00am Saturday Serve: Assembling
Gift Bags for Teachers

Sunday, Apr 27

Children & Youth Sunday

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, Administrative & 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.
Marculus Mosby
CL Pearce
Herb Sanders
Andy Sauerwein
William Stackler
Rob Vickery
Trey Watkins

DEACONS

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

COMING UP:

May 1: RYA Contentment Bible Discussion
May 5: Session & Diaconate Meetings
May 10: Community Garden Workday
May 26: Church Office Closed-Memorial Day
May 29-31: Kids With a Mission
June 2: Session & Diaconate Meetings
June 4: Fellowship Potluck
June 18: Fellowship Potluck
June 23-26: VBS
July 2: Fellowship Potluck

