



## REDEEMER CHURCH

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Rev. Zack Owens—Oct 19, 2025  
“Developmental Hope”  
—1 Peter 1:22-2:3

## Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Zack Owens  
Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care

## Call to Worship

*Psalm 130:7–8*

Mr. Jerome Douglas  
Director of Neighborhood Outreach & Missions

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

## Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Mr. Jerome Douglas

## Assurance of Pardon

*Zephaniah 3:17*

Mr. Jerome Douglas

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

## \* Song of Preparation

*“Better Than Life”*

Your love is everlasting, it's an everlasting love,  
Your mercy is as new as every rising of the sun  
And Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life.  
Your grace is all-sufficient, It's an all-sufficient grace,  
Your power and Your glory are forever on display  
And Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life.  
Chorus: Oh, it's better, oh, better than life.  
Oh, so much better,  
Jesus, Your loving kindness is better than life.

Fairest of ten thousand, of ten thousand You are fair.  
And nothing in this world could ever measure or compare  
to Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life.  
All your ways are just oh Lord, You're just in all Your ways.  
And I will lift my hands oh Lord with gratitude and praise.  
For Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life. Chorus

Jesus, your loving kindness, is better than life itself, better than life itself.  
Jesus, your loving kindness, is better than life itself, better than life itself.  
Jesus, your loving kindness, is better than life itself, better than life.

## \* Song of Praise

*“Jesus, What a Beautiful Name!”*

Jesus, what a beautiful Name!  
Son of God, Son of man, Lamb that was slain.  
Joy and peace, strength and hope,  
Grace that blows all fear away!  
Jesus, what a beautiful Name!

Jesus, what a beautiful Name!  
Truth revealed, my future sealed, healed my pain.  
Love and freedom life and warmth,  
Grace that blows all fear away!  
Jesus, what a beautiful Name!

Jesus, what a beautiful Name!  
Rescued my soul, my stronghold, lifts me from shame.  
Forgiveness, security, power and love,  
Grace that blows all fear away! Jesus, what a beautiful Name!

## **Baptism**

Rev. Zack Owens

*Noah Wilson Jamison, Covenant son of Wilson & Lindsey Jamison (11:00am)*

## **New Testament Scripture Reading John 15:5–12**

Mr. Jerome Douglas

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

## **Pastoral Prayer**

Mr. Grant Callen  
Ruling Elder

## **Children's Church (Ages 4-5) 8:00am only**

Introduction to Covenant Theology.

Parents: After worship in giving, you are welcome to send your child (4-5) to children's church before the end of special music.

## **Worship in Giving**

Mr. Grant Callen

*\*\*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.*

## **Congregational Song**

*"The Church's One Foundation"*

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation by water and the Word:  
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
with His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won,  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

**Prayer of Illumination**

Rev. Zack Owens

**Sermon Text**

1 Peter 1:22-2:3  
Pew Bible p. 1203

**Sermon Title**

*"Developmental Hope"*

**\*Hymn of Faith**

*"O Taste and See (Psalm 34)"*

I sought the Lord and He answered me,  
and delivered me from every fear.  
Those who look on Him are radiant,  
they'll never be ashamed,  
they'll never be ashamed.

This poor man cried and the Lord heard me,  
and saved me from my enemies.  
The Son of God surrounds His saints,  
He will deliver them,  
He will deliver them.

*Chorus:* Magnify the Lord with me, come exalt His name together!  
Glorify the Lord with me, come exalt His name forever!

O taste and see that the Lord is good,  
Oh blessed is he who hides in Him.  
Oh fear the Lord, oh all you saints,  
He'll give you everything,  
He'll give you everything. *Chorus*

Let us bless the Lord every day and night,  
never ending praise, may our incense rise. *Repeat as directed. Chorus.*

**\* Benediction**

Rev. Zack Owens

**\* Departing Song**

*"O Taste and See (Psalm 34)"*

O Taste and see that the Lord is good  
Oh blessed is he who hides in Him.  
Oh fear the Lord, oh all you saints,  
He'll give you everything,  
He'll give you everything. *Chorus.*

**Prayer Intercessor Team**

Mr. Jeremy Smith & Mrs. Alli Smith (8:00am)  
Dr. Andy Sauerwein & Mrs. Quita Sauerwein (11:00am)

**\*Please Stand.**

**(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #2579870)**

## Sermon Questions

- In what ways have you seen the gospel develop your ability to love sincerely and earnestly?
- Which “community-destroying vice” (malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander) do you most struggle to put away, and why?
- Peter says, “If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” When have you most tangibly “tasted” God’s goodness?
- How can our relationships in the church become places of both nourishment (Word) and nurture (love)?
- How does seeing sanctification as developmental—a slow, relational process—change your expectations for yourself and others?

## Sermon Big Idea & Points

*The developmental hope of the gospel calls us to grow in our love and grow in our longings.*

### 1. *Grow in Love (1:22–2:1)*

#### **A. The qualities of love**

- Sincere
- Earnest
- Pure

#### **B. The Enemies of love**

- Malice
- Deceit
- Hypocrisy
- Slander
- Envy

#### **C. Picking the Fruit vs. Digging up the Roots**

### 2. *Grow in Longings (2:2–3)*

#### **A. The Command**

- “Long for the pure spiritual milk”

#### **B. The Experience and Outcome**

- “Taste and see that the Lord is good”

## **The Sacrament of Covenant (Infant) Baptism**

As we read through the Word of God, it becomes clear that God's sovereign grace is embraced in the "covenant" framework of Scripture. By grace alone, God has *covenanted* with His people that He will have them to/for Himself from every nation, tribe, people, and language (Rev 7). It is a covenant generally that embraces family solidarity (see Acts 2:39; Acts 16:31; Gen 17:7). As noted elsewhere, *"every person identified in the Bible as having a household present at his or her conversion also had the household baptized."*

Because of God's covenant, all history marches forward to the time when God's covenant people will live in the New Jerusalem in a renewed world order enjoying fully their relationship with God: *"they will be His people, and God Himself will be their God"* (see Rev. 21:3).

Even today, Christ continues as *"the Mediator of the new covenant"* (Heb 8), the one Mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2). Salvation is covenant salvation: regeneration, justification, adoption, sanctification are covenant mercies. Baptism and the Lord's Supper, corresponding to/replacing the old covenant rites of circumcision and Passover, are covenant ordinances. God's law is covenant law, and keeping it is the truest expression of gratitude for covenant grace and loyalty to our covenant God. An understanding of this covenant of grace guides us through, and helps us appreciate, all the wonders of God's redeeming love.

Christians in our theological tradition believe that children of believers, infant children, are and should be included as members of the visible covenant community, the church. Why? Because we believe, based upon the Bible, that infant children of believers have the status of covenant children and therefore should be baptized, just as Jewish male infants previously had been circumcised. Again, why? Because, if infants are deemed members of the visible covenant community with their believing parents, it is fitting to give them the sign of covenant status and of their place in the covenant community.

Is there something magic about the water? No. Do baptized infants have no obligation to make a public profession of personal faith in Jesus Christ? Certainly, they do. When we celebrate the sacrament of covenant baptism, we publicly recognize a covenant child through the covenant sign of baptism as a child of at least one believing parent (1 Cor 7:14), thus as a member of the visible church. At the same time, we are careful also to affirm that neither baptism nor being the child of believing parents will suffice to make that child a true believer. At some point, each baptized infant/child must personally turn from their sins and express their own faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The outward and visible sign in baptism is water. As water is poured down on the head of a child, we are reminded of the cleansing blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that delivers us from the penalty of sin (1 John 1:7) as well as the sanctifying virtue of the Holy Spirit delivering us from the power of sin (Rom 8:2).

## 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 \*\*\*

- John Hooker: As he recovers from the loss and shock of a house fire.
- Dave Garner: As he grieves the loss of his mother.
- Alice Lusk & the Hollingsworth family: As they grieve the loss of Marshall.
- Myah Lane: As she undergoes treatment for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia.
- Thomas Eaves, son of Sterling & Lizzie Eaves: In remission from Leukemia.
- 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 updates and Take Them a Meal.

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

#### Community Garden Workday, Oct 23

Join Hope Exchange as we care for the veggies, vines, and fruit trees in the Art + Soil Community Garden. The garden is a space for community and collaboration, for creation care and soul care, and for learning and networking. Join us from 5:30-7:00pm at the corner of Robinhood and Londonderry road behind the church. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information and to sign up.

#### Community Prayer Walk, Oct 25

We invite you to join us as we come together to pray communally for the well-being, vision, and salvation of our community. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:45am before beginning the prayer walk from 9:00-11:00am. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information and to sign up.

#### 31 Days of Giving Food Drive

During the month of October we'll be gathering canned goods to benefit Hopeful Community Outreach. HCO houses a food pantry that benefits food insecure individuals in our parish and our city. Thirty-One Days of Giving is planned by RedeemerKids, but it gives an opportunity for our entire church to share Christ's love in word and deed. Help us reach our goal of 1,000 non-perishable canned goods! Donations can be dropped off upstairs by the RedeemerKids bulletin board. Contact Jajuan McNeil at [mrcline@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:mrcline@redeemerjackson.com) with any questions.

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

#### Church-Wide Prayer Brunch, Nov 2

Join us for our monthly congregation wide brunch during the Sunday School hour on Nov 2! We'll enjoy food and fellowship, then spend the last 10 minutes praying together as a church. Be sure and pick up your littles from the nursery before coming to brunch, we want everyone, including our diligent nursery workers, to be able to join us!

#### RYA Spiritual Formation Dinner & Discussion, Nov 6

Join RYA for our final panel discussion on Thurs, Nov 6 at the Dent's home (address in RYA GroupMe) from 6:30-8:00pm. We will be discussing how God's mission and evangelism aid in our spiritual formation. Pizza will be provided! Reach out to Chael Williams at [cwilliams@rts.edu](mailto:cwilliams@rts.edu) to RSVP or to join the RYA GroupMe.

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

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

Our search is continuing 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 **Dec 17**. Know someone who might be interested? See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information.

## ***Fall Adult Sunday School*** **9:45-10:35am**

***Fall Adult Sunday School Block 2***  
***begins today, Oct 12, and concludes Nov 30.***

### ***Foundations of Faith: A Study of the Westminster Confession (Chapters 1–7)***

**Teacher:** Brian Gault

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

Over 7 weeks we will study Chapters 1–7 of the Westminster Confession of Faith, exploring foundational doctrines that have shaped Reformed theology for centuries. We will examine the nature and authority of Scripture, the attributes and decrees of God, creation and providence, the fall of man, and God's covenantal relationship with humanity.

Working chapter-by-chapter, each week will include guided reading, group discussion, and theological reflection aimed at deepening understanding and encouraging personal application. Whether you are new to the Confession or know it well, this course will provide a structured, thoughtful approach to the historic teachings of the Reformed faith. Join us as we grow in our knowledge of God and His Word through the lens of this timeless confession.

### ***My Role in God's Rescue Plan***

**Teachers:** Jerome Douglas, Brent Kooi, Barret Jones

**Location:** Room 109

Join us in exploring God's heart for the nations and our part in his mission. Together we'll look at what missions is, who missionaries are, and how each of us can participate - whether by going or sending. Each week will focus on a different aspect of God's rescue plan, concluding with a hands-on mission project. Come be inspired and equipped to play your role in God's global mission!

### ***Redeemer Explored***

**Teachers:** Elbert McGowan, Jr., Barry McCay

**Location:** Sanctuary

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.

# **Fall Children & Youth Sunday School**

**2025 Fall C&Y Sunday School  
began Aug 10 and concludes Dec 14.**

## **Youth (6th-12th): Christian Friendship**

**High School Teachers:** Wilson Jamison, Ian Deffenbaugh,  
Anna Lois Callen, Cadden Christie

**Middle School Teachers:** Wilson Jamison, Rob Vickery, Lane Morgan & Team

**Location:** Youth Room

"Why is friendship hard?", "Why is it necessary?", "What does it take to be a good friend?", "How does belonging to Jesus shape our friendships?". This fall in Sunday school, Redeemer Youth will explore Christian Friendship using Ed Welch's *Side by Side*. Together, we'll see that humans are made for friendship—that it is rooted in God Himself, broken by sin, and redeemed in Jesus. We'll also learn practical skills for building and sustaining Christ-centered friendships.

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

This fall, RedeemerKids is continuing through "Investigating God's Word." All classes K4-5th Grade will be working chapter by chapter through Matthew chapters 1-14.

**K4: Room 208**

**Teachers:**

Rachel Harbarger, Amanda McGuffey

**2nd: Room 207**

**Teachers:**

Gene Everitt, KK Harrington

**K5: Room 209**

**Teachers:**

Beth Clarke, Sarah Love Crawford

**3rd: Room 206**

**Teachers:**

Christa Williams, Page Callen,  
Andrea Burks

**1st: Room 210**

**Teachers:**

Krisan Parish, Claire Graves,  
Emmaline Smith

**4th: Room 202**

**Teachers:**

Angela Simpkins, Samuel Bolen

**5th: Room 204**

**Teachers:**

Haley Arndt, Liz Callen,  
Tyler Espinoza

## **Nursery (2-3):**

### **Exploring God's Word Through the Old Testament**

This fall, our Nursery Sunday School will focus on teaching our young children the biblical foundation of God's creation and the early family of faith by covering key stories from the Book of Genesis, highlighting the life of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, Jacob, and Joseph and how they fit into God's plan of salvation.

**\*\*\* Redeemer Kids \*\*\***

**K4-5th Grade**

**Children's Church, Oct 19**

Children ages 4-5 join us as we study Covenant Theology this fall. 8:00am service only, for ages 4-5.

**Upside Down**

Upside down is our weekly offering for our elementary aged students. We play games, eat, sing, and learn about God's word! Come join us on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30pm.

**\*\*\* Redeemer Youth \*\*\***

**6th-12th Grade**

**High School Fall Retreat, Nov 7-8**

High School students, we would love to have you join us for our 2025 Fall Retreat! At Fall Retreat you'll get to hear teaching from God's Word, enjoy time outside, play games, meet new people, and hang out with your friends and youth leaders. Registration is open from Sept 1 to Oct 23. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) to sign up.

**Crossroads**

If you are in 6th-8th grade, come on out to Crossroads! Crossroads is our weekly youth group gathering where we eat dinner, play games, hear a lesson from the Bible and discuss it in small groups. We meet in the Youth room from 6:00-7:30pm. We have a blast and would love to see you there!

**Rooted**

High Schoolers, we hope you will join us on Sunday nights for Rooted! At Rooted we eat dinner, worship, hear a lesson from God's Word and then discuss it in small groups. We meet in the Youth room from 5:30-7:00pm. See you there!

## THIS WEEK

### Deacon on Call Week of Oct 19

Philip Carter 601.665.5504

### Sunday, Oct 19

#### Baptism

- 8:00am Worship Service  
Livestream Available
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship Service
- 6:30pm Rooted
- Various Sunday Growth Groups

### Monday, Oct 20

- 12:00pm The Men's Gathering

### Tuesday, Oct 21

- 7:00am Women's Bible Study
- 4:30pm Youth Girls' Bible Study
- 6:00pm GriefShare
- 7:00pm Choir Practice
- 7:30pm Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, Oct 22

- 9:00am Mom's Bible Study
- 5:30pm Families Count Class
- 6:00pm Upside Down
- 6:00pm Crossroads
- 6:00pm Work Life Class via  
Hope Exchange
- 6:00pm Women's Bible Study

### Thursday, Oct 23

- 4:30pm High School Office Hours
- 5:30pm Community Garden Workday

### Friday, Oct 24

### Saturday, Oct 25

- 8:30am Men's Basketball

### Sunday, Oct 26

- 8:00am Worship Service  
Livestream Available
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship Service
- 5:30pm Rooted

## 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  
Katie Drake, Director of Women's Ministry  
Velma Warner, Nursery Coordinator  
Corrie Keplinger, Coordinator of Communications  
& Operations, Assistant to the Senior Pastor  
Tina Collier, Administrative Assistant  
Brandon Slay, Director of AV Ministries  
Andre Warner, Audio/Visual Assistant  
Josh Anderson, Intern  
Joshua Coleman, Intern  
Ian Deffenbaugh, Intern  
Markese Lee, Intern  
Chael Williams, Intern  
Interim Music Ministry Team:  
Joyce Hamme, Arthur Phillips, Meg Mills, Akida Mosby

## 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  
Levi Gill\*  
Clayton Gressett  
Reid Haygood  
John Hooker\*  
Detrick Johnson  
Blaise King  
Cody McCain  
Lane Morgan  
Greg Ross  
Jaimar Scott  
Seth Shannon  
Jonathan Shull  
Jeremy Smith  
Ellis Tucker  
Thomas Wallace\*  
Johnston Walker  
Tamarco White

\*Sabbatical

## COMING UP:

Nov 2: Church-Wide Prayer Brunch  
Nov 3: Session & Diaconate Meetings  
Nov 7: High School Fall Retreat  
Nov 8: Community Garden Workday  
Nov 20: RYA Friendsgiving  
Nov 20: Community Garden Workday



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