



REDEEMER CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—December 7, 2025
“Axioms for The Living from a Man Who is Dying!”
—Genesis 49

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Call to Worship

Revelation 5:1-10

Rev. Zack Owens
Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Rev. Zack Owens

Assurance of Pardon

Psalms 130:3-5

Rev. Zack Owens

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

* Song of Preparation

“We Three Kings”

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high. *Refrain*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain*

*** Song of Praise**

"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*

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*

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Rob Vickery
Ruling Elder

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

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. Rob Vickery

****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.*

Special Music

"Song of The Angels" Mr. Arthur Phillips & Ensemble

While shepherds were out in the fields keeping watch of their flocks by night,
Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, they were surrounded by light.
And as the glory of the Lord was shining and flashing all around them they began to fear,
for they couldn't imagine the good news they were soon to hear.

Chorus: And the Angels sang glory to God in the highest,
peace on earth to men of goodwill.
And the sound of that melody of praise is echoing still.

Be not afraid, said the angel of the Lord,
for it's good news that I'm bringing.
And if this good news, all of creation soon will be singing,
for unto you in the City of David Christ the Lord, our Savior is born.
And with this message of hope and peace,
a new day is dawn! *Chorus.*

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Sermon Text

Genesis 49
Pew Bible p. 50

Sermon Title

"Axioms for The Living from a Man Who is Dying!"

*** Communion Hymn**

"How Deep The Father's Love"

How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
that He should give His only Son,
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away,
as wounds which mar the Chosen One,
bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders,
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice,
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished,
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.

Communion

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Communion Music

"Advent Message"

Mr. Stan Wagnon

*** Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*** Departing Song**

"How Deep The Father's Love"

I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom,
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer,
but this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Prayer Intercessor Team

Mr. Bill Wallace & Mrs. Alecia Wallace (8:00am)
Mr. William Stackler & Mrs. Amy Stackler (11:00am)

***Please Stand.**

(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #2579870)

Sermon Questions

1. Genesis 49 is both prophecy and poetry. What evidence in the text and the rest of scripture supports this? What makes this passage difficult to understand?
2. When you think of axioms in the natural world, what comes to mind? Does it make sense that there are also axioms in the spiritual world? Could Jacob's blessings to his sons disclose some of them?
3. How might Jacob's blessings to Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and then Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, and Benjamin validate the axiom that what we reap, we will sow? How might this be a warning to us to put sin to death before it grows into a scandal? How might this be a source of encouragement to live a peaceful, quiet, daily life of repentance?
4. How does Jacob's blessing to Joseph validate the axiom that those who suffer unjustly with God will ultimately be vindicated by God? What ministers to you most deeply about his blessing?
5. How does Jacob's blessing to Judah underscore the axiom that those who genuinely repent unto God will be rewarded by God? Where do we see this in Judah's life? What ministers to you most deeply about Judah's story?
6. Did you notice that in verse 18 Jacob breaks script? In between Dan's and Gad's blessings, he says, "I wait for your salvation, O LORD!". It reads as if Jacob knows that despite the blessings bestowed on his sons, a greater son has been promised, and his arrival is fixed. What evidence in this text supports the fact that he has Jesus in mind?
 - A. How is Jesus the axiom breaker for the scandalous?
 - B. How does Jesus guarantee vindication to the sufferer?
 - C. How is Jesus the enabler to the repentant?
7. Advent reminds us that our Savior has come and is coming again. How does this text remind us that he is a tailor-made Savior for sinners?

SERMON NOTES

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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 *****

- Family and friends of Charity Barnes: As they grieve the loss of Charity.
- 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 for updates and Take Them a Meal.

***** SEEKING TO SERVE *****

RED Christmas Deliveries, Dec 13

It is time for our Redeemer Engaging Christmas deliveries, and we're in need of 10 more folks to make this special event possible! We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00pm to enjoy treats, pray, and divide into groups before driving to the homes of our RED families to visit with them. Adults, children, youth, families—all are welcome! We also need your help purchasing gifts. Whether you can join us for deliveries or help purchase gifts or do both, this is a fun time for all ages! See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday to sign up to join us or to purchase gifts.

Community Garden Workday, Dec 18

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 to sign up.

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

Church-Wide Fellowship Brunch, Dec 7

Join us TODAY for our monthly congregation wide brunch during the Sunday School hour! We'll enjoy food and fellowship focusing on the Advent season. 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!

RCA ArtBake & Christmas Card Make, Dec 11

Join us for a relaxing evening as we bake and decorate cookies as well as make Christmas cards using the motifs and themes of Advent. Everything provided: dough, hot chocolate, candy decorations, and art supplies, but you can also bring your own. The entire family is invited to make and bake with us. We'll meet at 6:30pm at 630 Wellington Rd behind the church. Sign up through the QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday.

Joint Adult Sunday School: Advent Readings, Songs, and Spoken Word, Dec 14

Join us in the Sanctuary during the Sunday School hour on the 3rd Sunday in Advent. We will gather to meditate on the coming of the king through OT & NT Scripture reading, congregational Christmas hymns, and spoken word.

9:30am Joint Service on Dec 21 & 28

On Dec 21 & 28, instead of two services at 8:00am and 11:00am we will have ONE JOINT SERVICE at 9:30am. With the holidays, this gives us the opportunity for the whole congregation to be in one place at one time. We can't wait to worship together!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec 24, 5pm

Join us Christmas Eve as we sing carols and light candles to proclaim that Jesus is the light of the world. (Children often wear pajamas to this event!). See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information.

*** NEWS TO NOTE ***

Redeemer Officer Update

On Dec 1, the Session accepted the resignations of Thomas Wallace and Levi Gill from the Diaconate per BCO (Book of Church Order) 24-7.

Thomas joined Redeemer as we particularized in 2005, after being a member at Trinity since 1989. He served as a Deacon for more than a decade and he and Marianna were married at Redeemer 12 years ago. They will be transitioning to Pinehaven PCA in Clinton, which is where they live, but will still visit on occasion.



Levi and Kateri will remain at Redeemer, but doors have been opened for them to cultivate Hope Exchange, their non-profit, with more churches in the area. In some ways, Levi is expanding his Diaconal role to the greater metro area! Levi and Kateri will continue to host Hope Exchange at Redeemer on Wednesday nights.



Graduate Recognition

The Redeemer family would like to acknowledge those in our membership that are celebrating graduation this December. If you or someone you know is graduating, please email the church office at: office@redeemerjackson.com.

2025 Contribution Information

Please remember all giving for 2025 MUST BE in the church office, postmarked, or given through Breeze by December 31, 2025. Please email office@redeemerjackson.com or call 601.362.9987 with any questions you may have regarding your 2025 contributions or to request a hard copy of your statement. You will receive your official statement for tax purposes via email (if applicable) by January 16, 2026, or you can access your statement immediately through Breeze.

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.

Giving Update through October 2025

Our budget year runs from July—June.

Thank you for your generous giving!

General Fund

Total Budget: \$2,143,590

Year-to-Date Budget: \$714,530

Year-to-Date Giving: \$750,302

Oct Budget: \$178,632

Oct Giving: \$114,758

***** Redeemer Kids *****

K4-5th Grade

Children's Church, Dec 7

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, our weekly programming for elementary schoolers, is currently on break and will return on January 21.

***** Redeemer Youth *****

6th-12th Grade

Crossroads

Crossroads, our weekly programming for middle schoolers, is currently on break and will return on January 21.

Rooted

Rooted, our weekly programming for high schoolers, is currently on break and will return on January 21.

THIS WEEK

Deacon on Call Week of Dec 7

Reid Haygood, 769.233.3203

Sunday, Dec 7

- 8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available
9:45am Church-Wide Fellowship
Brunch
11:00am Worship Service

Monday, Dec 8

Tuesday, Dec 9

- 7:00pm Choir Practice

Wednesday, Dec 10

Thursday, Dec 11

Friday, Dec 12

Saturday, Dec 13

- 8:30am Men's Basketball
9:00am Community Garden Workday
12:00pm RED Christmas Deliveries

Sunday, Dec 14

- 8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available
9:45am Advent Joint Adult
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
Chael Williams, Interim 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
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
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
Johnston Walker
Tamarco White

*Sabbatical

COMING UP:

Dec 18: Community Garden Workday
Dec 21: Combined Worship Service
Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service
Dec 28: Combined Worship Service
Jan 4: Church-Wide Prayer Brunch
Jan 12: Session & Diaconate Meetings
Jan 21: Upside Down Resumes
Jan 21: Crossroads Resumes



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