

## REDEEMER CHURCH

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Rev. Brian Gault—March 15, 2026

“How It Ends: The Final Creation”

—Revelation 21:1-8

## Reflection Quote

“Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing.”—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

## Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Brian Gault  
Assistant Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship

## Missions Moment

Rev. Hernando Saenz  
Hispanic Ministries Director, Mission to North America (PCA)

## \* Call to Worship

*Hebrews 1:1-5*

Rev. Zack Owens  
Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

## Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Rev. Zack Owens

## Assurance of Pardon

*1 John 1:9*

Rev. Zack Owens

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## \* 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.  
*Repeat chorus as directed.*

**\* Song of Praise**

*"O, How I Love Jesus"*

There is a Name I love to hear, I love to sing Its worth;  
It sounds like music in my ear, The sweetest Name on earth.

*Refrain: O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus,  
Because He first loved me!*

It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free;  
It tells me of His precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea. *Refrain*

It tells me what my Father hath in store for ev'ry day,  
And, tho I tread a darksome path, Yields sunshine all the way. *Refrain*

It tells of One whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;  
Who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below. *Refrain*

**Baptism**

Rev. Brian Gault

8:00am

*Day Graham Tramel, Covenant child of Robert & Sarah Tramel  
Lawson Cliff Williams, Covenant child of Sam & Susanna Williams*

**Pastoral Prayer**

Mr. Kelle Menogan  
Ruling Elder

**Worship in Giving**

Mr. Kelle Menogan

*\*\*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.*

**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.*

**Congregational Song**

*"Love is The More Excellent Way"*

I could speak with the tongue of men and angels—love is the more excellent way.  
But if I don't have love, I'm just a clanging cymbal—love is the more excellent way.  
I could have the faith to remove the mountains—love is the more excellent way.  
But if I don't have love then I have nothing—love is the more excellent way.

*Chorus: Love is patient, love is kind, love is humble, all of the time.  
Not easily angered, enduring the test.  
So never forget, love is the more excellent way.*

I could have the gift of prophecy—love is the more excellent way.  
But if I don't have love, does it profit me?—Love is the more excellent way.  
I could understand all my mystery—love is the more excellent way.  
But if I don't have love it's not enough you see—love is the more excellent way.

I could throw my body into the flames—love is the more excellent way.  
But if I don't have love, I don't have anything—love is the more excellent way.  
I could give to the poor everything I own—love is the more excellent way.  
But a heart without love is just a heart of stone—love is the more excellent way.

**Prayer of Illumination**

Rev. Brian Gault

**Sermon Text**

Revelation 21:1-8  
Pew Bible p. 1233

**Sermon Title**

*How It Ends: The Final Creation*

**\* Song of Faith**

*"Jesus I My Cross Have Taken"*

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow thee;  
Destitute, despis'd, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shalt be.  
Perish, ev'ry fond ambition, all I've sought, and hop'd, and known;  
Yet how rich is my condition; God and Heav'n are still my own!

Let the world despise and leave me; they have left my Savior, too;  
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue;  
And while thou shalt smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate, and friends may shun me; show thy face, and all is bright!

Go then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!  
In thy service, pain is pleasure; with thy favor, loss is gain.

I have called thee Abba, Father; I have stayed my heart on thee;  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; all must work for good to me.

**\* Benediction**

Rev. Brian Gault

**\* Departing Song**

*"Jesus I My Cross Have Taken"*

Haste then on from grace to glory, arm'd by faith, and wing'd by pray'r;  
Heav'n's eternal day before thee; God's own hand shall guide me there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission; swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;  
Hope soon change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and pray'r to praise.

**Prayer Intercessor Team**

Mr. Kelle Menogan & Mrs. Kelly Berkompas (8:00am)  
Mr. Ellis Tucker & Mrs. Shirley Tucker (11:00am)

**\*Please Stand.  
(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #2579870)**

## 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).

## SERMON THEME & POINTS

*The Final Creation Assures us of a Future Home because God is Making ALL Things New.*

1. Old Promise, 3 (Something Old)
2. New Reality, 1-2, 4-5 (Something New)
3. Our Inheritance & Satisfaction, 6-8 (Something Borrowed)

## SERMON QUESTIONS

1. How do you experience homesickness? Share a time that you were homesick. How do you process the certainty of death?
2. Revelation 21:3 revisits and is the fulfillment of the promise of God's presence that is developed throughout the Bible in various ways: *I will be your God, and you will be my people, and I will dwell in the midst of you.* How can you appropriate that promise in everyday life this week?
3. How does the connection of the promise of God's presence to the developmental human need of 'secure attachment' shape your understanding of both the promise and secure attachment?
4. Do you like 'new things' in your life or do you prefer the safety of routine and habit?
5. Using your sanctified imagination, discuss the possible continuity and discontinuity between today's earthly realm and the 'new heaven and new earth' that God is bringing. Talk about the difference between a 'picture' and 'reality.' What are some of the beautiful things of this world that you might imagine are just a 'picture' of what we might see in the 'new heaven and new earth'?
6. In vv.5-6, how is the promise of the 'new heaven and new earth' coming discussed as *certain*? What are all the parts in the text (vv.1-8) that are included in our 'inheritance' (v.7)? How can we lean into the certain hope of our 'inheritance' to shape our lives this week?
7. Discuss 'thirst' (v.6), satisfaction, dissatisfaction, and disappointment in light of C.S. Lewis's quote from *Mere Christianity* (the Reflection Quote).
8. In the service, we used our sanctified imaginations to build a taste of what is coming in the fullness of our inheritance. As you're comfortable, share some of those core memories around (1) a favorite place, (2) a time you felt deeply loved, and/or (3) a time you experienced meaningful satisfaction. How can this picture aid us in remembering what is coming in our future home?

## 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 \*\*\*

- Lauren Denley & Family: As they grieve the loss of Lauren's mother.
- Millie Bomgaars: As she recovers from a broken ankle.
- Myah Lane: As she undergoes treatment for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia.
- Thomas Eaves, son of Sterling & Lizzie Eaves: In remission from Leukemia.
- Caroline & Tu 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.

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

### RCA ArtMake, Mar 19

ArtMake is for anyone of any age and level to dedicate some time to creating stuff in a fun and uplifting community. This particular Artmake features artist Anna Lois Callen instructing on different tones and values you can create through espresso or coffee art! Basic art supplies will be provided, but you are more than welcome to bring your own. Despite the espresso emphasis, any type of artmaking is encouraged, so whether you want to paint, write, knit or just read a book, you are welcome to sit and learn or share what might be on your mind. Join us from 6:00-8:00pm at Northshore coffee in the district, coffee and light snacks provided.

### Developing a Heart for God's Mission Dinner, Mar 22

Join us in the Fellowship hall at 5:00pm for a warm and engaging workshop with Dr. Karen Ellis as she helps stir our hearts for God's global mission. Dr. Ellis will teach on how the Lord shapes ordinary believers into people who see the world through His eyes and live with everyday missional purpose. Come for the meal, stay for the encouragement, and leave with a renewed desire to participate in what God is doing among the nations. Dinner provided, **be sure and sign up by Friday, Mar 19.**

### Men's Gathering Begins, Mar 23

For 8 weeks this spring, gather with Redeemer men to meditate on and discuss scriptures on Righteousness & Shalom. We meet Mondays, 12-1, in front of the church office. This is a time to connect and pray with other men under the Word, sitting outside as weather permits. RSVP to Brian Gault at [bgault@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:bgault@redeemerjackson.com)

### Redeemer Young Adults Gathering, Mar 26

Join us for our next RYA Gathering at Joshua & Sarah Coleman's home (address in RYA GroupMe) from 6:30-8:00pm as we dive into key Bible passages on forgiveness and reconciliation. This event offers young adults a space for open discussion on how Scripture calls us to forgive others, mirroring God's grace toward us. Pizza will be provided! Join the RYA GroupMe through the QR code, contact Markese Lee at [leemarkese@outlook.com](mailto:leemarkese@outlook.com) for more information.

### Ministering to The Poor Luncheon, Mar 28

During Missions Month, join us in the fellowship hall from 10:30am-1:00pm for a thoughtful and practical workshop led by Joshua Tsavatewa as we explore compassionate, holistic ministry to our neighbors in need. Lunch will be provided, sign up through the QR code.

### **Good Friday Service, Apr 3**

Join us at 6:00pm on Good Friday as we contemplate Jesus as the good shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep. Good Friday prepares us for Easter and the celebration that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Nursery provided.

### **Finishing Well Conference, Apr 11, 8:30am-1:00pm**

Finishing Well is a gathering for Christians who are aging, and the people who care for them. We will hear from Dr. Sumner Abraham, author of "REIMAGINING THE EVENING OF LIFE: A PRACTICAL THEOLOGY FOR DEATH & DYING" and a panel of fellow believers who have wisdom and expertise in the spiritual, medical, emotional, financial, and practical questions of what it means to fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for the full schedule and to register. *In order to provide nursery for this event, please register by Apr 5.*

### **Women's Ministry Spring Retreat, Apr 24-25**

We'd love for you to join the women of Redeemer for a retreat at Twin Lakes! We'll have two main sessions with our speaker, Portia Collins, who will guide us through Galatians, helping us reflect on our freedom in Christ. After these sessions, we'll have time to connect and pray with each other in small groups. There will be plenty of time to hang out and enjoy meals together, and on Sat afternoon we'll offer two optional activities for an hour: 1) Double Dutch, or 2) Craft time—if you'd prefer, you can sit and chat on the rocking chairs or explore the walking trails. Register through the QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday).

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

### **Community Garden Workday, Apr 11**

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. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just want to put your hands in the dirt and learn, join us at 9:00am for our next spring workday at the garden, located at the corner of Robinhood and Londonderry. Questions or ideas? Contact Sylvia Leggette at [artandsoilgarden@gmail.com](mailto:artandsoilgarden@gmail.com)

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

### **Redeemer Explored Begins Apr 12**

If you are interested in knowing more about Redeemer or joining the church, 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 Apr 12—May 31. At the end of the class, there will be the opportunity to interview with an Elder for membership. Email Brian Gault at [bgault@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:bgault@redeemerjackson.com) for more info or to hold your seat in the class.

### **Now Accepting Applications for Director of Youth Ministry**

The application for our Director of Youth Ministry position has been posted and will stay open until Apr 1. Access the application through the QR code, contact Zack Owens at [zowens@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:zowens@redeemerjackson.com) for more information.

### **Accepting Drummer Applicants**

We are seeking a new drummer for our music ministry. This is a paid position that includes both Sunday services and Tuesday evening rehearsals. If you're interested or know someone who is, please reach out to Coralie Keplinger at [ckeplinger@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:ckeplinger@redeemerjackson.com).

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

**Children's Church, Mar 15**

Children ages 4-5 join us as we study Covenant Theology this spring. 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. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information.

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

**Middle School RYM, June 22-26**

Middle School RYM (Reformed Youth Ministries) trip is for students who will be in 6th-8th grade during the 2026-27 school year (current 5th-7th graders). This conference is held at Laguna Beach Christian Retreat Center in Panama City Beach, FL. For more information about RYM, check out their website. Registration is first come first serve. The trip cost is \$525 with a \$125 deposit due upon registration. See QR code to register.

**High School RYM, July 3-7**

High School RYM (Reformed Youth Ministries) trip is for students who will be in 9th-12th grade during the 2026-27 school year and our 2026 High School graduates. This conference is held at Laguna Beach Christian Retreat Center in Panama City Beach, FL. For more information about RYM, check out their website. Registration is first come first serve. The trip cost is \$525 with a \$125 deposit due upon registration. Female Student Registration | Male Student Registration.

**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 on Wednesday nights. We have a blast and would love to see you there! See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information.

**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! See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information.

**Current Spring Adult Sunday School: Block 1**  
**began Feb 8 and concludes Mar 29.**  
**9:45-10:35am**

**Jackson Apologetics: Clear Answers for Complex Questions**  
**Location:** Room 109

**The Song of Songs**  
**Location:** Sanctuary

**Christian Growth: the Fruit of the Spirit**  
**Location:** Fellowship Hall

**Upcoming Spring Adult Sunday School: Block 2**  
**Begins Apr 12 and concludes May 31.**

**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.

**Generous Justice**

**Teachers:** Brian Gault, Grant Callen  
**Location:** Fellowship Hall

This seven-week Sunday School class explores the core themes of Tim Keller's *Generous Justice* and how they shape a lived, biblical vision of mercy, righteousness, and neighbor-love. Together we will examine the Scripture's call to *mishpat* (justice) and *tzadeqah* (righteousness) in daily life, learning how God's grace motivates compassion rather than guilt or duty.

Each week connects Keller's insights to practical areas such as caring for the poor, addressing social and racial inequities, cultivating cross-cultural relationships, and integrating personal responsibility with concern for systems that harm the vulnerable. Participants will engage in discussion, reflection, and real-life application, discovering how the gospel empowers believers to seek restoration in their communities and embody God's heart for justice with humility, wisdom, and generosity.

**Covenant Theology**

**Teachers:** Josh Anderson, Joshua Coleman, Jonny Parker, Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.  
**Location:** Sanctuary

This class will explore the riches of covenant theology and how it shapes the way Reformed Christians read the Bible. Scripture repeatedly reveals God's covenant promise: "I will be your God, and you will be my people" (Ex 6:7).

Over seven weeks, we will trace this theme through the major covenants of the Bible using insights from J. V. Fesko's book *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*. The series will introduce the foundations of covenant theology and examine the covenant of redemption, the covenant of works, and God's covenant of grace in both the Old and New Covenants. We will also consider covenant signs and the relationship between covenant and the church. Our prayer is that this class will help participants see more clearly the beauty of Scripture and the richness of God's relationship with His people.

## Spring Adult Sunday School

9:45-10:35am

Spring Children & Youth Sunday School  
began Feb 8 and concludes May 31.

### Youth (6th-12th): Truths That You Can Trust

**High School Teachers:** Chael Williams, Stephanie Greer, Rob Vickery,  
Mary Katherine Evans, Cadden Christie

**Middle School Teachers:** Chael Williams, Stephanie Greer,  
Josh Anderson, Mary Katherine Evans, Lane Morgan

**Location:** Youth Room

In a world that is constantly shifting and information that is always changing, it is important that we "build our houses on the rock." This spring Redeemer Youth will be studying truths you can trust to remind us of the unchanging truth of God's Word. Using Paul David Tripp's *12 Truths Every Teen can Trust* as a resource, we will be learning together about core doctrines of the Christian faith serve as a firm foundation for living the Christian Life.

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

This spring, RedeemerKids is continuing through "Investigating God's Word."

**K4:** Room 208

**Teachers:**

Rachel Harbarger, Amanda McGuffey

**K5:** Room 209

**Teachers:**

Beth Clarke, Sarah Love Crawford

**1st:** Room 210

**Teachers:**

Krisan Parish, Claire Graves, Emmaline Smith

**2nd:** Room 207

**Teachers:**

Gene Everitt, KK Harrington

**3rd:** Room 206

**Teachers:**

Christa Williams, Page Callen,  
Andrea Burks

**4th:** Room 202

**Teachers:**

Angela Simpkins, Samuel Bolen

**5th:** Room 204

**Teachers:**

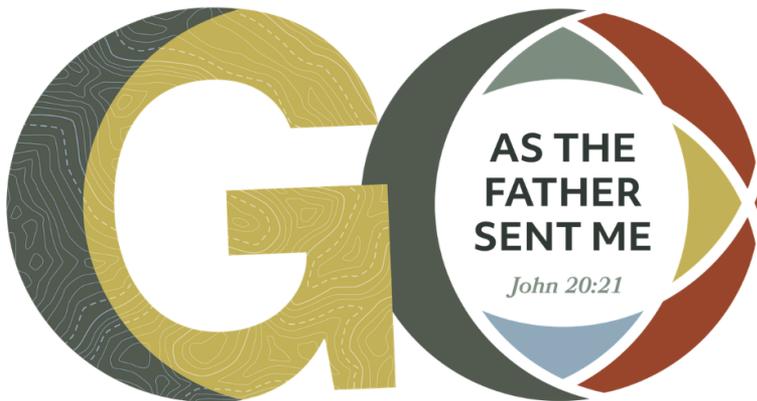
Haley Arndt, Tyler Espinoza,  
Jake Garner

### Nursery (2-3):

#### Exploring God's Word Through the New Testament

This spring, our Nursery Sunday School classes will be looking at God's Son. Our focus will be on exploring the New Testament as we study the birth and early years of Jesus. Each lesson is designed to help children discover and understand these foundational stories from Scripture. In every lesson, the children are continually directed to Jesus and encouraged to recognize their need for Him.

# MISSIONS MONTH 2026



A month focused on living on mission in our neighborhoods, our city, and among the nations

## KEY EVENTS & DATES

FEB 28

Reaching Our  
Neighborhood Luncheon

MARCH  
1-29

Mission Moments  
(Sundays)

MARCH  
22

Mission Month Dinner

MARCH  
28

Ministering to the  
Poor Luncheon

## GUEST SPEAKERS:



Rev. Thabiti Anyabwile

Dr. Karen Ellis



Rev. Joshua Tsavatewa

All events and meals are free!

Register early and join us during Missions Month!





# MISSIONS MOMENTS



**February 22**  
**Rev. Wright Busching**  
Church Planter/Pastor



**March 1**  
**Trey and Kiki Adams**  
MTW Thailand Team Leader,  
Mission to the World



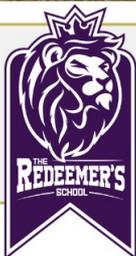
**March 8**  
**Willis Bridges**  
Director of Ministry & Mission,  
Mission First



**March 15**  
**Rev. Hernando Saenz**  
Hispanic Ministries Director,  
Mission to North America (PCA)



**March 22**  
**Marcus Nobles**  
Campus Associate, RUF  
Alabama A&M



**March 29**  
**Kelle Menogan**  
Head of School,  
The Redeemer's School

# MISSIONS MONTH

## Devotions

### Introduction

Mission is not first something the church does. It is something God has always been doing. The Father sent the Son into the world in to save His people, and through Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, God continues His work of redemption. Mission flows from who God is and from belonging to Christ, not from pressure or performance.

Throughout this month, these devotions invite us to slow down and reorient our hearts. We will see how God meets His people in fear and doubt, speaks peace, gives His Spirit, and sends them with a clear message and a steady promise: "I am with you always." Mission is lived out through ordinary faithfulness shaped by trust in the risen Christ.

### How to Use This Devotional

These devotions are designed for **Monday through Friday**, with weekends left open for rest or catching up. Each day is meant to be read carefully rather than rushed. Begin by reading slowly, then move through the reflection and prayer, allowing space for honest self examination. They can be used individually, with family, or in small groups.

Each devotion should take **10 to 15 minutes** to complete, depending on how much time you spend in discussion, reflection, or prayer. If you miss a day, that's ok - keep going. Simply return where you left off. The goal is formation as we learn to live as a sent people under the gracious care of God.

***May God bless you in the reading and reflection of His Word.***



## DAY 11 — WHEN GOOD NEWS IS KEPT QUIET

Have you ever been around someone with really good news? They cannot hide it. Their joy leaks into their face, their body, and every conversation. Christians carry even greater news in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; a saving message filled with love, forgiveness, victory, and hope. Yet, too often the best news in the world becomes our best kept secret.

**The Good News of Jesus Christ is too good to keep and was never meant to stay hidden.**

*"And he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed...But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee.'" (Mark 16:6-7)*

The messenger at the tomb announces the greatest news imaginable. Jesus has risen. Death has been defeated. God's victory has been secured. But the announcement does not stand alone. It is followed immediately by a command. "Go. Tell." The resurrection is meant to move outward.

Mark tells us that the women flee from the tomb trembling and astonished. Fear is present, and Mark does not hide it. But fear alone does not explain what happens next. The women are not confused about the message. They are not unsure of what they have been told to do. They know the truth, and they know the command.

And yet, they say nothing.

The silence reveals something deeper than fear. It exposes the fragile space between believing the gospel and releasing it. Mark leaves the story unresolved on purpose, pressing the reader to step into the gap. Will the good news remain contained, or will it be carried forward?

This tension is not foreign to us. Many believers sincerely trust that Jesus is risen, rejoice in the Gospel, and find comfort in its promises. But belief does not always translate immediately into witness. Fear often plays a role, but it is rarely the whole story. More often, hesitation grows out of uncertainty, comfort, or the desire to wait for a better moment. Over time, silence can become familiar, even after faith has taken root.

Mark's ending confronts us gently but firmly. The resurrection demands more than private confidence. It calls for movement. The story is meant to continue.

### **Walking Forward in Faith**

Today, ask whether the Gospel has become something you mainly hold rather than something you share. Not out of rebellion, but out of pause. God does not call His people to move forward with the Good News. The risen Christ is already going before His people. He invites us to join Him by speaking what we know to be true.

Ask God for one opportunity today to pass on the good news. Then take a small step forward, trusting Him with the outcome.

**Prayer:** Father God, thank you for the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord. You know how hesitation can quiet our voices, even when we believe. Forgive us for the ways we hold back what You have given so freely. By Your Spirit, grant us faith to move forward, courage to speak, and trust that You are already at work beyond us. Amen.



## DAY 12 — DEVOTED TO PRAYER

As mission moves outward, Scripture gently pulls us inward. Before Paul speaks about words, wisdom, or witness, he speaks about prayer. Mission that lasts is never sustained by energy alone. It is sustained by dependence on God.

**Prayer keeps God's people dependent and rooted as they live on mission.**

*"Continue steadfastly in prayer..." (Colossians 4:2a)*

Paul's instruction is simple but weighty. "Continue steadfastly in prayer." Prayer is not an occasional response to crisis or uncertainty. It is a steady, ongoing posture of reliance on God. For Paul, prayer is not peripheral to mission. It is foundational.

Prayer reminds us that God is the primary actor in mission. Hearts are opened by Him. Doors are created by Him. Growth is given by Him. When prayer weakens, mission quietly shifts from trust to technique. But when prayer is central, God's people remain grounded in humility, hope, and purpose.

Many of us want to be useful to God, but we struggle to be still before Him. Prayer can feel unproductive or even pointless when there is so much to do. We often assume that action is more faithful than waiting.

Some have even wondered whether prayer is necessary if God's plan of redemption is certain. Why pray if God will save those whom He has elected? Yet, this way of thinking overlooks how God accomplishes His purposes. He has ordained not only the ends of redemption, but also the means, including the faithful prayers and actions of His people.

Paul's words about prayer expose what lies deep within us. Do we truly believe God is at work apart from us? Do we believe He intends to use our prayers in the unfolding of His redemptive plan? When prayer fades, control often takes its place. We begin to act with more confidence in ourselves than dependence on God. An absent prayer life reveals that we have forgotten both the privilege and the vital role we have in God's mission.

Prayer reorients us. It slows us down. It reminds us that mission is not something we accomplish for God, but something we join Him in.

### **Walking Forward in Faith**

Today, recommit yourself to prayer as an act of trust. Not polished prayer. Not impressive prayer. Faithful prayer.

As you pray, remember that prayer is not preparation for mission. It is participation in it.

**Prayer:** Gracious God, forgive us for relying on our own strength and neglecting prayer. By Your Spirit, teach us to depend on You steadily and humbly. As we live on mission, keep our hearts anchored in prayer, trusting that You are always at work—even through our prayers. In Jesus name, amen.

Take a moment now to pray for one or two people who need to hear the good news of Jesus. Pray for them by name. Ask that God would open their hearts and minds to receive the message of Christ and lead them to believe in Him.



## DAY 13 — WATCHFUL AND THANKFUL

Living in Mississippi teaches you to keep a jacket nearby year round. It prepares you for the cold outside and the unexpected chill inside. Mission shaped prayer prepares us the same way. Paul pairs prayer with two postures that keep God's people attentive and grounded: watchfulness and thanksgiving.

**A watchful and thankful prayer life keeps God's people attentive to His work and rooted in grace.**

*"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." (Colossians 4:2)*

Paul's instruction assumes that God is active and present. To be watchful is to live with open eyes, alert to where God is at work around us and attentive to what He is doing within us. Watchfulness helps us notice opportunities for Gospel witness and love, while also guarding our hearts against the sin and temptation that can quietly grow within.

Thanksgiving grounds that attentiveness in grace. Gratitude helps us recognize God's work both around us and within us. We rejoice in the spread of the gospel and the planting of churches, while also giving thanks for the quieter work of sanctification as God deepens our dependence on Christ and grows our love for His Church.

Together, watchfulness and thanksgiving help us stay alert because God is at work, and remain grateful because every evidence of that work is a gift of His grace.

Without watchfulness, we drift into distraction and temptation. Without thanksgiving, our hearts grow restless and focused on what is lacking.

But a watchful and thankful life keeps us close to God, attentive to His work, and ready to respond in faith.

### **Walking Forward in Faith**

Today, practice watchfulness by paying attention. Notice the people God places in your path. Notice moments of need, openness, or quiet invitation. Ask the Lord to help you see what you might normally miss.

But also notice where you are weak and where you need growth or support. Like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, invite a trusted friend to "watch and pray" with you.

At the same time, practice thanksgiving intentionally. Name specific blessings around you. Consider the ways God has shown grace to Redeemer and to our mission partners, and let stories of His faithfulness stir your affection for His mission.

Then reflect on the ways God has worked within you: saving faith, growing obedience, reordered loves, and sustaining grace. Let gratitude shape your tone, your posture, and your expectations.

A watchful and thankful heart prepares the soil for faithful witness.

**Prayer:** Gracious God, thank You for Your constant work in and around us. Forgive us for living distracted or ungrateful lives. By Your Spirit, train our hearts to be watchful and thankful, attentive to Your grace and ready to respond in faith. In Jesus name, Amen.



## DAY 14 — WALKING WISELY WITH OUTSIDERS

“Your life may be only the Bible that some people may have ever read.” - Andy Mineo

God places His people among neighbors, coworkers, friends, and communities who do not yet share their faith. In Colossians, Paul reminds us that wisdom is not an abstract quality we acquire, but a life shaped by Christ Himself.

**God calls His people to live in a way that reflects Christ, the wisdom of God, among those who do not yet know Him.**

*“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.” (Colossians 4:5)*

In Colossians, wisdom is inseparable from Christ. Earlier in the letter, Paul declares that in Christ “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” To walk wisely, then, is not simply to behave carefully or strategically. It is to live in alignment with the life, character, and lordship of Jesus.

Paul uses the language of walking to describe everyday conduct. Wisdom is worked out over time, in ordinary rhythms and relationships. When believers live under Christ’s rule, their lives begin to reflect His humility, patience, truthfulness, and love. This is what gives credibility to our presence among outsiders.

Making the best use of the time means approaching each moment with purpose and attentiveness. Our lives are shaped by Christ, and God often uses our faithful presence to draw others toward Him.

It is easy to reduce wisdom to social awareness or emotional intelligence. While those things may be helpful, Paul’s vision is deeper. Christian wisdom flows from belonging to Christ. When we forget this, we may try to manage impressions rather than bear witness with a transformed life.

Living wisely means engaging the world with the character of Christ. In our real relationships, patience, integrity, gentleness, and consistency quietly bear witness even before we speak.

Wisdom shaped by Christ invites curiosity rather than defensiveness. It opens doors rather than forcing them.

### **Walking Forward in Faith**

Today, consider how your life reflects the wisdom of Christ among those around you. Not perfection, but direction. Ask the Lord to help you walk in step with Him in your ordinary interactions.

Rather than asking, “How can I handle this well?” ask, “What would it look like to reflect Christ here?”. Trust that God uses a life shaped by His Son to make the gospel visible over time.

**Prayer:** Father God, thank You for revealing Your Wisdom to us in Christ. Forgive us for seeking wisdom apart from You or relying on our own insight. By Your Spirit, shape our lives so that our words and actions reflect Your character. As we live among those who do not yet know You, help us walk in step with You, that others might see Your grace and truth. Amen.



## DAY 15 — SPEECH SHAPED BY GRACE

Words matter. They reveal what fills our hearts and shape how others experience us. After calling believers to walk wisely among outsiders, Paul turns to how we speak. Our words are not an accessory to our witness. They are a vital expression of it.

**God calls His people to speak in ways shaped by grace and seasoned with truth.**

*“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (Colossians 4:6)*

Paul does not tell believers to speak more often or less often, but more faithfully. “Always be gracious.” Grace is the controlling tone. This does not mean avoiding truth or hard conversations. It means that truth is delivered in a way that reflects the patience, kindness, and mercy of Christ.

Paul also says our speech should be “seasoned with salt.” Salt preserves and enhances. In the same way, gracious speech does not flatten the gospel. It keeps it clear, distinct, and compelling. Grace and truth are not opposites. In Christ, they belong together.

Paul assumes conversations will be personal and particular. “So that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” Wisdom listens. It considers context. It responds with care. Christian speech is not rehearsed slogans, but thoughtful, Spirit-guided engagement.

It is easy for our words to drift toward extremes. Sometimes we grow quiet out of fear, choosing silence over clarity. Other times we speak bluntly, prioritizing correctness over compassion. Both can miss Paul’s vision.

Speech shaped by grace reflects Christ Himself. Jesus spoke truth without crushing people. He spoke with authority without harshness. His words exposed sin, but they also opened doors for repentance and restoration.

Our speech often reveals what we believe about the Gospel. If we believe grace has truly met us, our words will tend toward patience and humility. If we forget grace, our words may grow sharp, defensive, or dismissive.

### **Walking Forward in Faith**

Today, pay attention to your words. Not only what you say, but how you say it. Ask the Lord to shape your speech so that it reflects His grace and wisdom.

Before responding in conversation, pause and pray quietly. Ask for discernment to know what is needed in that moment.

Trust that God uses gracious, thoughtful speech to open hearts over time.

**Prayer:** Gracious God, thank You for speaking to us with truth and mercy through Your Son. Forgive us for words that have lacked grace or clarity. Shape our speech by Your Spirit, that our words might reflect Your kindness and faithfulness. Teach us to answer each person with wisdom, love, and truth, for the glory of Christ. Amen.

## THIS WEEK

### Deacon on Call Week of Mar 15

Philip Carter, 601.665.5504

### Sunday, Mar 15

#### Missions Month

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

### Monday, Mar 16

- 6:00pm GriefShare

### Tuesday, Mar 17

- 7:00am Women's Bible Study
- 7:00pm Choir Practice
- 7:30pm Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, Mar 18

- 9:00am Mom's Bible Study
- 5:30pm Families Count Class Begins
- 6:00pm Upside Down
- 6:00pm Crossroads
- 6:00pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:00pm Faith & Finances
- 6:00pm *The Soul of Shame*  
Book Discussion

### Thursday, Mar 19

- 12:00pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:00pm RCA ArtMake

### Friday, Mar 20

### Saturday, Mar 21

- 8:30am Men's Basketball

### Sunday, Mar 22

#### Missions Month

- 8:00am Worship Service
- 8:00am Livestream Available
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship Service
- 5:00pm Developing a Heart for  
God's Mission Dinner
- 5:30pm Rooted



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

## STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor  
 Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship  
 Zack Owens, Asst Pastor of Congregational Care  
 Jerome Douglas, Dir Neighborhood Outreach & Missions  
 Jajuan McNeil, Director of Children's Ministry  
 Joya McNeil, Children's Ministry Assistant  
 Chael Williams, Interim Youth Director  
 Stephanie Greer, Assistant Youth Director  
 Katie Drake, Director of Women's Ministry  
 Velma Warner, Nursery Coordinator  
 Coralie 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  
 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:

Mar 25: Community Garden Workday  
 Mar 28: Ministering to The Poor Luncheon  
 Mar 28: Middle School Spring Day Getaway  
 Apr 3: Good Friday Service  
 Apr 6: Session & Diaconate Meetings  
 Apr 11: Finishing Well Conference  
 Apr 11: Community Garden Workday  
 Apr 12: Communicants Class Begins  
 Apr 12: Redeemer Explored Begins