

REDEEMER CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—March 22, 2026

“Is Your Faith Counterfeit or Real?”

—James 2:14-26

Reflection Quote

“Grace cannot be severed from its fruits. If God gives you St Paul’s faith, you will soon have St James’ works..”—Augustus Toplady, quoted in David Gibson’s *Radically Whole*

Introit

“Worship The Lord”

Chorus: Worship the Lord and praise His holy name.

Worship the Lord let’s magnify His name

Make a joyful noise all ye people, Sing a song to the Lord
Of His goodness and His mercy, Of His faithfulness and love. *Chorus*

Can’t stop praising His name, I just can’t stop praising His name
I just can’t stop praising His name—Jesus!

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.
Assistant Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship

Missions Moment

Mr. Marcus Nobles
RUF Campus Associate, Alabama A&M

* Call to Worship

Ephesians 2:1-10

Rev. Brian Gault

Assistant Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Rev. Brian Gault

Assurance of Pardon

1 John 4:10

Rev. Brian Gault

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

*** Song of Preparation**

“Lord, You’re Mighty”

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

Oh Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!
You set Your glory above the heavens and the earth.
When I think of all You've made, the sun, the moon and the stars,
no praise is high enough to express how great You are!

What a mighty God we serve, Mighty God we serve!
Angels would bow before the mighty God we serve!
What a mighty God we serve, Mighty God we serve!
Let heaven and the earth adore the mighty God we serve!

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

*** Song of Praise**

“Awesome Wonder”

Provider, Defender, Master of the Universe, You know me.
You are an Awesome Wonder. *Repeat*
Oh, what a wonder You are. Oh, You are an awesome wonder. *Repeat*
You know me, my weakness. You know just where I hurt the most,
that's why I call You healer. *Repeat*
Oh, what a healer You are. Oh, You are an awesome healer! *Repeat*
Your kingdom, established. You rule the heavens and the earth.
In my life, You are an awesome ruler! *Repeat*
Oh, what a ruler You are. Oh, You are an awesome ruler. *Repeat*
You called me from darkness. You claimed my heart and made it Yours.
That's why I call you Savior! *Repeat*
Oh, what a Savior You are. Oh, You are an awesome Savior. *Repeat*

New Testament Scripture Reading Matthew 13:24-30

Rev. Brian Gault

He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Grant Callen
Ruling Elder

Worship in Giving

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

****Please find the Connect Pad on your pew at this time to sign in and pass it down the row.****

*Visitors: If you would like to be contacted by the church, please include your email address
Thank you to those giving online.*

Choral Worship*"All Because of Jesus"*

Redeemer Choir

Chorus: All because of Jesus, all because of Jesus, all because of Jesus, we are here.
Because of His blessings, all His bountiful blessings, we are here.

Since I am here I'm gonna praise His name.
Since you are here we think that you should do the same.
Since we are here together let's praise His name.
Because of Jesus we are here.

We have all gathered here, we've come from far and we've come from near,
just to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.
Praising God for what He's done and all the victories we've already won.
I wanna thank God that we are here.

And it's all because of (Jesus). Everything that I have is because of (Jesus).
I want to let the world know (Jesus). He's the reason I am here.
I thank you (Jesus); I come to praise you (Jesus), we are here.

O hallelujah! We give Him the honor, we give Him the praise.
We are here.

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Sermon TextJames 2:14-26
Pew Bible p. 1200**Sermon Title***Is Your Faith Counterfeit or Real?**** Song of Faith***"My Hope is Built On Nothing Less"*

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' Name.

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

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

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

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*

*** Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*** Departing Song***"My Hope is Built On Nothing Less"*

Well you know all my faults, my every word and deed.
You know what I want Lord, and you know just what I need.
If there's something there that I'm not aware,
well take it, move it, keep me in your care. *Chorus*

Prayer Intercessor TeamMr. Bill Wallace & Mrs. Alecia Wallace (8:00am)
Mr. Herb Sanders & Mrs. Mary Sanders (11:00am)***Please Stand.****(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #2579870)**

SERMON QUESTIONS

1. **Open Reflection**—In your own words, what stood out to you when the passage (or insert the direct reference here) was read?
2. **Enjoying God**—What particular aspect of the sermon helped you to enjoy God (Father, Son, and Spirit) more deeply?
3. What aspect of the gospel stood out to you in the sermon?
4. How would you summarize this sermon to another believer?
5. How was your understanding of the passage sharpened, clarified, or changed as you heard the word preached?
6. What are practical action steps that you can take this week as we consider how to apply this to our lives?
7. Where do you see struggles and/or victories in your life over doctrine and practice from today's passage and sermon?

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 ***

- 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 for updates and *Take Them a Meal*.

*** CALLED TO CONNECT ***

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.

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, 12:00-1:00pm, 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

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 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.

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. **The last day to register is Apr 15.**



*** SEEKING TO SERVE ***

Community Garden Workday, Mar 25

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 5:30pm 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

*** NEWS TO NOTE ***

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 by **Apr 12.**

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 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 for more information.

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

Children's Church, Apr 5

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 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. See QR code to register

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 Wed nights. We have a blast and would love to see you there! See QR code or 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 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

5th: Room 204

Teachers:

Haley Arndt, Tyler Espinoza,
Jake Garner

2nd: Room 207

Teachers:

Gene Everrit, KK Harrington, Rebecca Walker

3rd: Room 206

Teachers:

Christa Williams, Page Callen,
Andrea Burks

4th: Room 202

Teachers:

Angela Simpkins, Samuel

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.

Redeemer Church

Finishing Well Conference

April 11, 2026 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)*

Schedule:

8:30am - Registration (Light breakfast)

**9:00am - Keynote #1: Dr. Sumner Abraham
Reflection & Table Discussion**

Break

10:30am - Keynote #2: Dr. Sumner Abraham

11:45am - Lunch Panel

- Financial planning & Stewardship
- Care giving
- Navigating healthcare and difficult conversations
- Family systems
- and more!



Register Today!

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



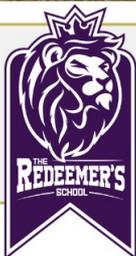
March 8
Willis Bridges
Director of Ministry & Mission,
Mission First



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 16 — SENT TO ALL NATIONS

Jesus's mission has never been small or exclusive. From the beginning, God's purpose has been to gather a people for Himself from every tribe, language, and nation. When Jesus sends His disciples, He lifts their eyes beyond familiar places and comfortable boundaries-to everywhere.

Jesus sends His disciples with a mission to reach all peoples in all places.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)

Jesus's command flows directly from His authority. Because all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Him, His mission extends to the whole world. "All nations" refers to distant and near places. It speaks of all peoples, cultures, and communities. No group is outside the reach of Christ's redeeming work.

This calling reshapes how we understand mission. It is not limited to overseas efforts or extraordinary callings. It includes neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and cities. Wherever people live, Christ claims His authority and extends His invitation.

Jesus's words remind us that mission is expansive because God's grace is expansive. The gospel is not the possession of one culture or people. It belongs to the world God made and loves.

We often imagine mission as something that happens far away, carried out by others with special callings or resources. While global mission is essential, Jesus's command refuses to let us distance ourselves from the task.

"Go" (or "in your going") includes the people we encounter daily. It includes those who look like us and those who do not. It includes people who feel familiar and people who feel difficult or distant. The scope of Christ's mission challenges our preferences and stretches our love.

At the same time, this vision guards us from shrinking the Gospel. We are reminded that God's purposes are larger than our immediate concerns and that He delights in drawing people from every background into His family.

Walking Forward in Faith

Today, ask God to expand your vision. Pray for peoples and places beyond your own experience. Pray also for eyes to see the mission field right in front of you.

Consider how your life intersects with people, even those of different cultures, stories, and perspectives. Ask how God might be inviting you to reflect Christ's love and proclaim His invitation in every relationship.

You are sent not just somewhere, but to someone. And Christ goes before you.

Prayer: Father God, You gave Jesus all authority and, with that authority, He sends us to all nations. Forgive us for narrowing Your mission to what feels familiar or comfortable. By Your Spirit, expand our hearts to love what You love and to trust Your work in places near and far. Use our lives to reflect the breadth of Your grace, for Your glory. Amen.



DAY 17 — BAPTIZED INTO BELONGING

Jesus does not send His disciples merely to secure decisions. He sends them to form a people. At the heart of Christian mission is not only proclamation, but incorporation into a new life and a new community.

Through baptism, God brings believers into a new identity and a new belonging in Christ.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

Jesus makes baptism central to disciple making. Baptism is not an optional symbol or a private expression of faith. It is a visible sign of entry into the covenant community of God’s people. To be baptized is to be named, claimed, and marked as belonging to the triune God.

Baptism signifies cleansing from sin, union with Christ in His death and resurrection, and incorporation into the body of believers. It declares that a person no longer defines themselves by their past, their achievements, or their failures. They now belong to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Mission, then, is not just about adding numbers, but about welcoming people into a new family. The Gospel does not save individuals in isolation. It gathers them into a redeemed community shaped by grace.

In a world marked by loneliness and fragmentation, belonging is deeply desired. Many people long to be known, named, and accepted. The Gospel offers something far deeper than social connection. It offers covenant belonging rooted in God’s promises.

When baptism is reduced or neglected, discipleship can become thin and individualistic. Faith becomes something private rather than shared. But Jesus calls His church to receive new believers not only with words, but with a visible sign that says, “You are now part of us.”

This shapes how we think about mission. We are not inviting people into a program or an event. We are inviting them into life with God and with His people.

Walking Forward in Faith

Today, remember your own baptism. Whether you recall the moment or not, its meaning remains. You have been named and claimed by God. You belong to Him and to His people.

As you live on mission, consider how your life and your church reflect this belonging. Are others able to see and experience the grace of being welcomed, known, and loved?

Ask God to help you embody the hospitality of the Gospel, pointing others not only to Christ, but into the community shaped by His grace.

Prayer: Father God, thank You for adopting us into Your family through the work of our Lord Jesus. Spirit of God, help us to remember who we are and whose we are. As we live on mission, teach us to welcome others with the same grace we have received, for the glory of Your name. Amen.



DAY 18 — LEARNING TO OBEY

Riding a bike begins as a shared effort but quickly becomes a solo project. We often treat discipleship the same way. But Jesus does not imagine discipleship as a brief beginning followed by independence, but a life shaped over time by His teaching. Mission continues as believers learn to live together under the good rule of Christ.

Jesus forms disciples through ongoing teaching that shapes how they live in faithful obedience.

“Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:20)

Jesus also places teaching at the heart of disciple making. But the goal of this teaching is not information alone. It is obedience. To observe what Jesus commands is to order one’s life around His words, trusting that His way leads to life.

This kind of learning is relational and ongoing. Disciples are shaped as they listen, practice, stumble, and grow. Jesus does not expect instant maturity. He commits Himself to patient formation—a “long obedience in the same direction.” (Eugene Peterson).

Teaching, then, is an act of love. It helps believers discern truth from falsehood, faithfulness from compromise, and wisdom from folly. Through it, Christ continues His work of shaping a people who reflect His character in the world.

Many people associate obedience with burden or restriction. We fear that obedience will diminish freedom rather than lead to it. But Jesus’s commands flow from His love and wisdom. He teaches His people how to live as those who belong to Him.

When obedience is neglected, discipleship becomes shallow. Faith becomes disconnected from daily life. But when believers are taught to observe Christ’s commands, faith begins to take root in habits, decisions, and relationships.

This kind of discipleship is slow and often unseen. It requires patience with ourselves and with others. But it is how God shapes ordinary people into faithful witnesses over time.

Walking Forward in Faith

Today, consider how you are learning to observe what Jesus has commanded. Not perfectly, but progressively. Where is Christ inviting you to trust Him more fully in how you live?

As you think about mission, remember that disciple making includes walking alongside others over time. Encouraging growth. Offering patience. Pointing again and again to Christ.

Ask God to form you as a disciple who both listens to Jesus and lives in light of His words, as well as helps other do the same.

Prayer: Father God, thank You for teaching Your people with patience and love. On the account of Christ Jesus our Lord, may You forgive us for separating belief from obedience or rushing past the slow work of growth. By Your Holy Spirit, shape our lives by Your Word and help us walk faithfully in what You have commanded. Use us to encourage others as we learn together what it means to follow Your Son. In Jesus name, Amen.



DAY 19 — GOD WITH US

Mission does not rest finally on our obedience, clarity, or endurance. It rests on the promise of God's presence. As Jesus concludes the Great Commission, He does not point His disciples inward to their resolve or outward to the size of the task. He points them to Himself.

God sustains His mission through His abiding presence with His people.

"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Jesus's final words in Matthew are a promise. "I am with you." This assurance reaches back to the beginning of the Gospel, where Jesus is named Immanuel, God with us. What began with incarnation ends with ongoing presence.

This promise is comprehensive. Jesus is with His people always, not only in moments of visible fruit or faithful obedience, but also in weakness, uncertainty, and waiting. His presence does not fluctuate with our performance. It is anchored in His faithfulness.

Mission, then, is never carried out alone. The risen Christ remains actively present with His church, guiding, strengthening, and sustaining His people until the work is complete.

Many believers quietly carry the weight of responsibility in mission. We feel pressure to say the right words, seize every opportunity, and avoid failure. Over time, this weight can lead to anxiety or discouragement.

Jesus's promise reorients us. He does not send His disciples away from Himself. He sends them with Himself. His presence steadies us when obedience feels costly and comforts us when results seem small.

Knowing that Christ is with us frees us from measuring faithfulness by visible success. We are invited to trust His nearness even when progress is slow or unseen.

Walking Forward in Faith

Today, rest in the promise of Christ's presence. Wherever you go, whatever the outcome, you are not alone. Let this assurance quiet the pressure you place on yourself.

As you live on mission, remember that faithfulness grows from abiding, not striving. Christ's presence is not a reward for obedience. It is the foundation of it.

Walk forward today trusting that the One who sends you also stays with you.

Prayer: Father God, thank You for sending Your Son to us and for His promise to be with Your people always. Forgive us for forgetting about Your presence. May Your Spirit help us to trust Your nearness in every season, and let Your Spirit's presence give us courage, humility, and peace as we live on mission. In Christ we rest and pray. Amen



DAY 20 — UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE

Mission Month ends with assurance. The story God is telling does not depend on a single month, a single effort, or a single generation. It is carried forward by a faithful God who finishes what He begins.

God's mission continues until the end of the age, sustained by His faithfulness and promise.

"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Jesus's promise stretches forward beyond the moment. He does not say He will be with His disciples for a season, or until the work becomes difficult, or until their strength runs out. He promises His presence until the end of the age. This anchors mission in God's long view of history.

The mission of God did not begin with us, and it will not end with us. Christ reigns now, gathering His people through the witness of the church, and He will bring His work to completion. One day, faith will give way to sight. Mission will give way to worship. The gospel will no longer need to be proclaimed, because the redeemed will dwell with God forever.

Until that day, the church lives in hopeful obedience. Not frantic. Not anxious. Faithful.

It is easy to feel both inspired and overwhelmed by mission. We see the needs of the world, the brokenness of our communities, and the limits of our own capacity. We wonder whether our efforts matter or whether anything truly changes.

Jesus's words remind us that faithfulness is measured over time, not moments. God weaves ordinary obedience into His eternal purposes. What feels small to us is never wasted in His hands.

Mission Month may be ending, but the life God calls us to continues. And it continues under the promise that Christ remains present and at work.

Walking Forward in Faith

As this month concludes, resist the urge to measure yourself. Instead, entrust yourself again to the faithfulness of God.

Ask the Lord to carry forward what He has stirred in you. Not through pressure, but through steady trust. Let mission become less of an event and more of a way of life shaped by confidence in Christ.

Walk forward knowing that God is still sending, still saving, still sustaining His people until the end.

Prayer: Faithful God, thank You for the promise of Your Son to be with your people until the end of the age. Thank You that Your mission rests on the Spirit's power, not ours. As we move beyond this month, help us live with steady trust and quiet faithfulness. Keep our hearts fixed on Christ, and use our lives for Your glory until the day Your work is complete. Amen.

***Thank you participating in our Mission Month devotional.
May God bless you in the reading and reflection of His Word.***

THIS WEEK

Deacon on Call Week of Mar 22

Preston Denley, 662.231.3332

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

Monday, Mar 23

- 6:00pm GriefShare

Tuesday, Mar 24

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

Wednesday, Mar 25

- 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 26

- 12:00pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:30pm RYA Gathering

Friday, Mar 27

Saturday, Mar 28

- 8:30am Men's Basketball
- 9:00am Youth Spring Day Getaway
- 10:30am Ministering to The Poor Luncheon

Sunday, Mar 29

Missions Month Concludes

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



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:

Apr 3: Good Friday Service
Apr 6: Session & Diaconate Meetings
Apr 11: Finishing Well Conference
Apr 11: Community Garden Workday
Apr 24-25: Women's Spring Retreat
May 4: Session & Diaconate Meetings
May 9: Community Garden Workday
May 20: Community Garden Workday
May 28-30: Kids With a Mission