

# REDEEMER CHURCH

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—March 8, 2026  
“Partiality: The Sin That Punishes the Poor,  
Poisons the Church, and Profanes God’s Name”  
—James 2:1-13

### Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

### Missions Moment

Mr. Willis Bridges  
Director of Ministry & Mission, Mission First

### Introit

“Completely Yes”

Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, from the bottom of my heart to the depths of my soul.  
Yes, Lord, completely yes; my soul says yes

I love You, I love You, from the bottom of my heart, to the depths of my soul.  
I love you, I really do; my soul says yes.  
My soul says yes.

### \* Call to Worship

*Psalm 146*

Mr. Joshua Coleman  
Intern

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!

### Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Mr. Joshua Coleman

### Assurance of Pardon

*Hebrews 8:10*

Mr. Joshua Coleman

For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.

### \* Song of Preparation

“Gospel Medley”

What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve.  
Angels bow before Him, Heaven and earth adore Him, what a mighty God we serve!  
What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve.  
Angels bow before Him, Heaven and earth adore Him, what a mighty God we serve!

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart, I will enter His courts with praise  
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice for He has made me glad  
He has made me glad, oh He has made me glad, I will rejoice for He has made me glad  
He has made me glad, oh He has made me glad, I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

*Repeat as directed*

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made  
I will rejoice, I will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made I will rejoice and be glad in it

This is the day, this is the day  
That the Lord has made. *Repeat as directed*

**\* Song of Praise**

*"A Living Sacrifice"*

I offer my body, I offer my mind, I offer my spirit as a living sacrifice.  
In view of your mercy, I lay down my life, Jesus, receive me as a living sacrifice.  
Make me holy, make me holy, make me holy as a living sacrifice.

**Pastoral Prayer**

Mr. Marculis Mosby  
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**

*"Center of My Joy"*

Redeemer Choir

*Chorus: Jesus, you're the center of my joy.*

*All that's good and perfect comes from you.*

*You're the heart of my contentment, hope for all I do Jesus, you're the center of my joy.*

*When I've lost my direction, you're the compass for my way.*

*You're the fire and light when nights are long and cold.*

*In sadness, you are the laughter, that shatters all my fears.*

*When I'm all alone, your hand is there to hold. Chorus*

*You are why I find pleasure in the simple things in life.*

*You're the music in the meadows and the streams.*

*The voices of the children, my family, and my home.*

*You're the source and finish of my highest dreams, woah.*

*Jesus, you're the center of my joy.*

*All that's good and perfect comes from you.*

*You're the heart of my contentment, hope for all I do.*

*Jesus (Jesus), you are (you are) the center (the center) of my joy.*

*You are everything (Jesus), everything (You are).*

*Everything (the center) everything (of my joy).*

*You're my joy (Jesus) in my sorrow (You are).*

*You're my hope (the center) for tomorrow (of my joy).*

*When I'm lonely (Jesus), feeling sad (You are).*

*You're the lifter (the center) of my head (of my joy).*

*You're my music (Jesus), You're my song (You are).*

*You're my joy (the center) all day long (of my joy).*

*Woah, Jesus, You're the center of my joy.*

*My joy, my joy, my joy.*

**Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Sermon Text**

James 2:1-13  
Pew Bible p. 1200

**Sermon Title**

*"Partiality: The Sin That Punishes the Poor,  
Poisons the Church, and Profanes God's Name"*

**\* Song of Faith**

*"Take My Life and Let it Be"*

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for Thee, swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing,  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from Thee, filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use  
ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose, ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own;  
it shall be Thy royal throne, it shall be Thy royal throne.

**\* Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**\* Departing Song**

*"Take My Life and Let it Be"*

Take my love, my Lord, I pour,  
at Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take my self, and I will be  
ever, only, all for Thee, ever, only, all for Thee.

**Prayer Intercessor Team**

Mr. Dave Garner & Mrs. Tam Garner (8:00am)  
Mr. Marculis Mosby & Mrs. Akida Mosby (11:00am)

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

## **SERMON POINTS**

1. Partiality—a dangerous killer of church community
2. Partiality—a difficult sin to overcome
3. Partiality—destroyable, so that beauty might blossom

## 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. How would you summarize this sermon to another believer?
4. How was your understanding of the passage sharpened, clarified, or changed as you heard the word preached?
5. What are practical action steps that you can take this week as we consider how to apply this to our lives?
6. 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](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 \*\*\***

- Bert Everitt: As he continues recovery from successful shoulder replacement surgery.
- 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 \*\*\***

### **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. *In order to have childcare accommodations, please sign up through the QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) by the end of today, Mar 8.*

### **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)

### **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. *In order to have childcare accommodations, please sign up by Mar 14.*

### **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.

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

Register now for our women's ministry retreat at Twin Lakes! This is an opportunity to set aside intentional time to grow in knowing our God deeper through the teaching and study of his Word, and to enjoy connection and rest with others. Portia Collins will be our guest speaker for the weekend, you can learn more about Portia through the QR code. This event is for women ages 18 and up. For more details and to register, see QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday).

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

### **VITA Tax Preparation Classes This Spring—Volunteers Needed**

This spring, Redeemer is serving as a VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site. These free events offer tax preparation assistance for individuals and families with a household income of less than \$68,675 per year. Register to attend one of these classes between Feb 28 and Apr 18, held from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the second church office building, 644 Wellington Rd from 9:00am-2:00pm. **The class on Mar 11** will converge with the Hope Exchange Community Group for a tax preparation class. If you'd like to volunteer, reach out to Lee Morris at [nlmorris1988@gmail.com](mailto:nlmorris1988@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Community Garden Workday, Mar 14**

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 \*\*\*

### **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).

### **Weekly Programming Pauses—Spring Break, Mar 4 & 11**

For spring break Upside Down, Crossroads, Hope Exchange, and The Soul of Shame Book Discussion will not meet. Rooted will not meet tonight, Mar 8.

#### **Giving Update through January 2026**

Our budget year runs from July—June.

*Thank you for your generous giving!*

#### **General Fund**

Total Budget: \$2,143,590

Year-to-Date-Budget: \$1,250,427

Year-to-Date-Giving: \$1,405,449

Jan Budget: \$178,632

Jan Giving: \$328,973

**\*\*\* 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](http://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](http://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](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information.

## *Spring Adult Sunday School*

*9:45-10:35am*

*Spring Adult Sunday School Block 1  
began Feb 8 and concludes Mar 29.*

### **Jackson Apologetics: Clear Answers for Complex Questions**

**Teachers:** Jerome Douglas, Karen Ellis, Esther Abraham

**Location:** Room 109

Want to grow in defending the faith? Join us as we engage the beliefs shaping our city and everyday conversations. We will explore sexuality, Christian nationalism, Islam, Jehovah's Witness, Hebrew Israelism, and deconstruction - drawing from Eric Mason's Urban Apologetics. Come grow in clarity and confidence as we learn to give Gospel answers with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

### ***The Song of Songs***

**Teacher:** Miles Van Pelt

**Location:** Sanctuary

The Song of Songs is perhaps the most neglected and misunderstood book in the Christian Bible, but we need to hear its message more than ever in our current cultural moment. The Song upholds the beauty of the marriage covenant as instituted by God in Genesis 2, while helping us to navigate the hardships, temptations, and brokenness of the post-fall Genesis 3 world we now inhabit. In this class, we will consider the topic of marriage and marital intimacy from the larger context of the Bible through the lens of Solomon's most famous song, the Song of Songs.

### ***Christian Growth: the Fruit of the Spirit***

**Teachers:** Zack Owens, Bentley Crawford, Andy Sauerwein

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). In scripture, a healthy life with God is often described in biological terms - whether as physical growth or botanical growth (a living faith is not truly living if it doesn't exhibit the characteristics of life: movement, breathing, and growth.)

In this class, we will explore each of the Fruit of the Spirit as a window into a biblical understanding of how and why we grow as Christians, exploring not only personal sanctification but also Intimacy (giving and receiving love), Identity (Connecting to others even through conflict), Imperfection (Dealing with sin and failure in ourselves and others), and Impulse Control (Holy Spirit empowered ability to feel and think instead of react).

## 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:**

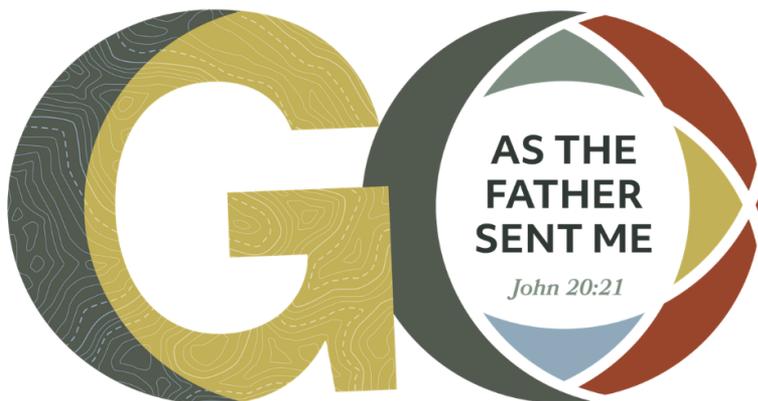
Haley Arndt, Tyler Espinoza,  
Jake Garner

### 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!

Childcare available  
for Mar 28  
(register *two weeks* prior for childcare)

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 6 — SENT WITH PEACE

Reflecting on missions can often stir feelings of guilt. Some believers feel unworthy to participate in God's mission because their lives do not look like the Savior they love. Others feel shame because they know they have not shared the gospel or lived as faithfully as they hoped. The noise of what we have not done can grow loud, leaving us discouraged before we ever begin.

**Jesus offers peace to those who have failed, and then sends them forward in His mission.**

*"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'" (John 20:21)*

The disciples are hiding behind locked doors when Jesus appears to them. Fear surrounds them, but something deeper must have also been present. Only days earlier they had scattered when Jesus was arrested. They had abandoned Him in His suffering. If anyone had reason to feel shame, it was them. Yet Jesus does not begin with rebuke. He begins with peace.

"Peace be with you," He says. And then, almost immediately, He adds, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

The peace Jesus gives is not sentimental or pretend. It rests on what He has accomplished. Through His death and resurrection, sin has been dealt with and reconciliation with God has been secured. The mission that humanity continually fails to carry out, Jesus has fulfilled perfectly. Now He sends His people to participate in that finished work.

This peace is both restorative and empowering. It restores broken people to fellowship with God, and it frees them to move forward without being defined by their failures.

Many believers hesitate in mission because they feel unqualified. They look at their past, their inconsistencies, or their missed opportunities and assume they should stay silent. Shame convinces them that someone else is better suited for the task. But Jesus does not wait for perfect disciples before sending them. He meets imperfect people with peace and then invites them to participate in His mission.

The gospel does not only forgive our failures. It also frees us to move forward as agents of Christ's peace in the world.

### **Walking Forward in Faith**

Today, receive the peace Jesus offers personally. His words were not only for the disciples in that room. They are for every believer who feels the weight of failure. If you belong to Christ, His peace restores you and sends you forward.

Rather than dwelling on what you have not done, take a step forward in faith. Speak the truth you know about Christ and trust that God works through ordinary obedience. From His peace, we move forward in mission.

**Prayer:** Father, forgive me for the ways I have failed to live out your mission. Thank You that true peace is found in Christ, our Lord and our Peace. Restore me by that peace, and help me live faithfully in your redemptive plan, sharing the peace of Christ with those around me. Amen.



## DAY 7 — SENT WITH THE SPIRIT

If Jesus sends His people into a world that is still broken, then we need more than good intentions. We need God Himself. And that is exactly what Jesus provides. He does not only give us a message to carry. He gives us His presence to sustain us.

**Jesus sends His people with the Holy Spirit so that mission is carried out in God's power, not our own.**

*"And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 20:22)*

After speaking peace and commissioning His disciples, Jesus breathes on them. It is a small detail, but it is loaded with meaning. It echoes the way God breathed life into humanity. Here, the risen Christ gives life and power to His people for the work ahead.

The Spirit is not given because the disciples have become strong. He is given because they are weak. Mission will require courage, patience, wisdom, and endurance that cannot be manufactured. The Spirit is God's own empowering presence with His people, the One who helps us speak truthfully, love sacrificially, and persevere faithfully.

This keeps mission from turning into self effort. We are not primarily accomplishing something for God, God is accomplishing His purposes through His people.

It is easy to drift into relying on ourselves. We lean on preparation, personality, or past experiences. And when those things fall short, we feel discouraged, as if faithfulness depended on our strength.

The Spirit meets us right there. He reminds us that fruit does not finally come from our skill, but from God's power. This is why we can be both humble and hopeful. Humble, because we are dependent. Hopeful, because God is present.

### **Walking Forward in Faith**

Today, practice dependence. Before conversations, ask the Spirit for wisdom and gentleness. Before serving, ask the Spirit for love and endurance. Before speaking, ask the Spirit to open doors and prepare hearts.

You may feel ordinary. That is not an obstacle. The Spirit delights to use ordinary people who trust Christ. You are not sent alone.

**Prayer:** Father, thank You for Your presence. Forgive us for relying on ourselves and growing weary. Teach us dependence that is steady and joyful. By your Spirit, empower our words, shape our love, and guide our steps as we walk into the world that Jesus sends us into. Bear fruit through our ordinary faithfulness for the glory of Christ. Amen.



## DAY 8 — THE MESSAGE WE ARE SENT TO SHARE

Being sent by Jesus does not leave us guessing about what we are meant to say. He gives His people peace. He gives them His Spirit. And then He makes clear what they are to carry into the world. Mission is never empty or undefined. It is anchored in a specific message God has already revealed.

### **Jesus sends His people to call the world to repentance.**

*“Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.’” (Luke 24:45-47)*

After His resurrection, Jesus does something gracious and necessary. He opens the minds of His disciples to understand the Scriptures. He shows them that His suffering and resurrection were not an interruption to God’s plan, but its fulfillment. Everything written in the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms pointed toward this moment.

Then Jesus names the message that must be proclaimed. At the center is repentance. The call to turn away from sin and return to God. Humanity’s deepest problem is not ignorance or lack of effort. It is sin. And repentance is apart of the doorway through which sinners return to the God who made them.

This message is not meant to remain private or local. It is to be proclaimed to all nations, beginning right where the disciples are.

Yet repentance can feel like an uncomfortable word. In a culture that prizes self-expression and self-justification, the language of sin and turning back to God often feels unwelcome. Because of this, we sometimes feel pressure to soften the message or avoid it altogether.

But when we remove repentance, we remove the a critical part of doorway that leads to life. Repentance is not meant to shame people. It is God’s invitation to return to Him.

### **Walking Forward in Faith**

Today, receive the call to repentance for yourself. Repentance is not only the beginning of the Christian life. It is the daily posture of a heart that keeps turning back to God.

As you consider your role in God’s mission, remember that you are not sent to fix people. You are sent to speak the truth about what God calls all people to do. Turn from sin. Turn back to Him.

Begin by letting repentance shape your own heart. Then trust that God can use your words to call others home.

### **Prayer**

Father, search my heart and reveal the ways I have wandered from You. Give me humility to turn from my sin and return to You again through Christ. Thank You for calling sinners like me back to Yourself. Help me live with a repentant heart and faithfully carry this call to others. Amen.



## DAY 9 — WHY FORGIVENESS IS GOOD NEWS

Forgiveness is one of the most familiar words in the Christian vocabulary, and that familiarity can dull its weight. We speak of forgiveness often, but we do not always pause to consider why it is such good news, or why it stands at the center of God's mission to the world.

**Forgiveness is good news because it deals honestly with our sin and truly restores us to God.**

*"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead for the forgiveness of sins." (Luke 24:46)*

Jesus ties forgiveness directly to His suffering and resurrection. Forgiveness is not a vague idea or a kind gesture from God. It is something that required real cost. Christ suffered. Christ died. Christ rose. Forgiveness flows from that finished work.

This tells us something essential about sin. Sin is not merely a mistake to overlook or a weakness to excuse. It creates real separation between humanity and God. It bends our loves inward and distorts our relationships with one another. Forgiveness, then, is not God pretending sin does not exist. It is God dealing with sin fully and justly through the sacrifice of His Son.

Because Jesus has risen, forgiveness is not temporary or fragile. It is secured. The resurrection declares that the payment for sin has been accepted and that new life with God is now possible.

Many people struggle to believe forgiveness is truly available. Some carry guilt that feels too heavy to release. Others minimize sin altogether, assuming forgiveness is unnecessary. Both responses miss the heart of the gospel.

When sin is downplayed, forgiveness becomes shallow. When sin is magnified without hope, forgiveness feels impossible. The gospel holds both together. It tells the truth about our brokenness while offering real restoration. Forgiveness neither flatters us nor crushes us. It meets us honestly and invites us to be made whole.

This is why forgiveness must be proclaimed. Without it, people remain trapped either in denial or despair. Forgiveness names the problem clearly and offers a way forward grounded in grace.

### **Walking Forward in Faith**

Today, receive forgiveness again, as a gift, not an achievement. Let the reality of Christ's suffering and resurrection quiet your guilt and steady your heart. As you think about God's mission, remember that forgiveness is not something you manufacture or manage. It is something you announce. Speak of it with humility, knowing your own need for grace. Speak of it with hope, trusting that God delights to forgive.

Forgiveness is not the end of the story, but it is the doorway into new life with God.

**Prayer:** Merciful Father, thank You for providing forgiveness through the suffering and resurrection of Your Son. Help us see both the seriousness of our sin and the depth of Your grace. Free us from guilt and denial, and shape us into people who live and speak from the joy of being forgiven. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## DAY 10 — VICTORY THAT GIVES HOPE

Forgiveness tells us that our sin has been dealt with. The resurrection tells us something even more sweeping. It tells us that every enemy standing against God's people has been confronted and overcome. This is where Christian hope takes root.

**Because Jesus has risen, sin, death, and every opposing power have been defeated, and true hope is now possible.**

*"And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here.'" (Mark 16:5-6)*

The women come to the tomb expecting death. They bring spices to care for a body. Instead, they are met with an announcement that overturns every expectation: "He has risen." The tomb is empty not because something went wrong, but because everything has gone right.

This declaration is not merely informational, it is decisive. If Jesus has risen, then death no longer holds ultimate power. What appeared to be defeat on Friday is revealed as victory on Sunday. The resurrection confirms that God's purposes cannot be undone and that the cross was not the end of the story. The risen Christ stands as the victorious King. Sin has been answered. Satan has been overthrown. Death has been broken. Forgiveness is secured, and new life has begun.

Many people live as though defeat is normal and hope is fragile. We grow accustomed to disappointment, loss, and brokenness. Even as believers, we can quietly assume that things will never truly change.

When hope shrinks, mission weakens. Why speak of good news if we are not convinced it is truly good? Why invite others to trust Christ if we secretly believe the world is too broken to be restored?

The resurrection confronts our low expectations. It tells us that God is stronger than everything that opposes Him. Hope is not wishful thinking. It is confidence rooted in what God has already accomplished.

### **Walking Forward in Faith**

Today, let the truth of Christ's victory reshape how you see your life and the world around you. Hope does not deny suffering. It places suffering within a larger story that is already moving toward restoration.

As you think about God's mission, remember that you are not carrying a message of mere survival. You are carrying a message of victory. Speak it with humility, but also with confidence. God is not guessing at the outcome. He has already secured it.

Live today as someone who believes the tomb is empty.

**Prayer:** Father, thank You for the victory You have give me through the resurrection of Christ. Forgive us for living as though defeat is inevitable and hope is small. Lift our eyes to see Your power and faithfulness. Fill us with confidence rooted in Your triumph, and help us share this hope with a world longing for deliverance. Amen.

## THIS WEEK

**Deacon on Call Week of Mar 8**  
Grafton Bragg, 601.624.1153

### Sunday, Mar 8

#### Missions Month

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

### Monday, Mar 9

6:00pm GriefShare

### Tuesday, Mar 10

7:00pm Choir Practice

### Wednesday, Mar 11

6:00pm Faith & Finances VITA  
Tax Preparation Class

### Thursday, Mar 12

### Friday, Mar 13

### Saturday, Mar 14

8:30am Men's Basketball  
9:00am Community Garden Workday

### Sunday, Mar 15

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

## STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship  
Zack Owens, Asst Pastor of Congregational Care  
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 18: Families Count Class Begins  
Mar 22: Sunday Dinner: Developing a Heart for God's Mission  
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 12: Communicants Class Begins



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