

REDEEMER CHURCH

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



ORDER OF SERVICE

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr. | February 21, 2021

"What Did They Do With 3,000 New Christians?"

-Acts 2:42-47

Prelude

Musicians

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

* Call to Worship

Psalm 145:1-18

Mr. Steve Lanier

Assistant to the Pastor

"I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."

Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Mr. Steve Lanier

* Song of Preparation

"Glory, Glory, Hallelujah"

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down!

I feel better, so much better Since I laid my burdens down.
I feel better, so much better Since I laid my burdens down!

I'm goin' home to be with Jesus Since I laid my burdens down.
I'm goin' home to be with Jesus Since I laid my burdens down!

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down!

* Song of Praise

"Hallelujah, You're Worthy"

Chorus: Hallelujah, You're worthy to be praised. Hallelujah, You're worthy to be praised.

When I think of all You've done, all the victories You have won;
I will lift my voice and praise You, oh most Holy One.

For You are wonderful, marvelous, glorious, Mighty Lord;
I will lift my voice and give You the highest praise. *(Chorus)*

Bridge: I lift my hands, I praise You, Lord. I bow my head, I honor You, Lord.

Chorus: Hallelujah, You're worthy to be praised. Hallelujah, You're worthy to be praised.

*Vamp: Hallelujah, you're worthy. Hallelujah, we praise Your name.
Hallelujah, so worthy, Hallelujah, Lord we lift You up.*

Covenant Baptisms

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Warren Barksdale Dixon, Covenant Child of Clay and Madison Dixon (11:00am)

Esther Joy Stone, Covenant Child of Stephen and Marianna Stone (11:00am)

Confession of Faith-The New City Catechism

Mr. Steve Lanier

Question 44: What is baptism

Answer: Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to his church.

Question 45: Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

Answer: No, only the blood of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from sin.

Question 48: What is the church?

Answer: God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Tommy Dent, Ruling Elder

Scripture Reading and Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Sermon Text

Acts 2:42-47

Sermon Title

"What Did They Do With 3,000 New Christians?"

*** Hymn of Faith**

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Clothed then in the blood washed linen
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Take my ransomed soul away
Send Thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless day

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let that goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

*** Worship in Giving and Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Prayer Intercessor Team

Mr. Tommy Dent and Mrs. Mary Dent

<https://redeemerjackson.com/resources/forms/prayer-request-form/>

***Please Stand.**

(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #257987)

SERMON QUESTIONS

- Every strong and majestic lion was once a vulnerable cub. Left alone, what would happen to every cub? How does a cub grow into the intimidating creature that rules the wild?
- Acts 2:41 reminds us that 3,000 people were baptized at the conclusion of Peter's sermon. How are they like lion cubs?
- It appears that the 120 mature believers (Acts 1:15) began a process of spiritual formation with the 3,000! How would you define spiritual formation? What is the goal (Gal. 4:19)? Why is it important?
- Spiritual formation begins with a biblical prioritization of the body of Christ (those who believe in Jesus). How many times does our passage say they were "together?" This togetherness is both spatial and spiritual. What does this mean?
- Spiritual formation happens in the context of patterned living. What 6 disciplines/habits shaped early Christians?
- Annie Dillard writes, "How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives. What we do with this hour, and that one, is what we are doing. Habits defends from chaos and whim. It is a net for catching days. It is a scaffolding on which a worker can stand and labor with both hands at sections of time." Justin Earley writes, "Habits are how we stand up and get our hands on time. And because time is the currency of our purpose, habits are how we get our hands on our purpose. If you want to get your hands on who you are becoming, you need to get your hands on habits." What do you think about these quotes?
- What should we be becoming in the Christian life? Lovers of ____ and lovers of _____. How do these habits aid this community of saints in becoming this?
- What proof do we have in this text that they were being properly formed? Where do we see them loving God and neighbor more?
- "We want Redeemer to be an intentionally multi-ethnic, Gospel-centered, covenant community where every member has the opportunity to (1) worship, (2) learn, (3) give, (4) connect, and (5) serve." How do you see these five rhythms embodied in Acts 2:42-47? If you evaluated yourself in light of these, where are you doing well? Where is there room to repent and endeavor new obedience? How can the staff or leaders assist you?

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 Act 2:39; Act 16:31; Genesis 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 (Romans 8:2).

¹Taken from notes in the Reformation Study Bible

²Paper on covenant baptism by Dr. Bryan Chappell

Missions Month Begins Feb 28

Our 2021 Missions Conference has been transformed into a whole month! Instead of packing everything into one weekend, we're going to spread things out over one month between February 28 and March 28. Dr. Thurman Williams will kick us off with our Missions Sunday on Feb 28, and then look for Missionary Updates over the next month via Missions Moments, Wednesday Updates, and Coming Sunday Updates. There's a family mission project too! Here's the whole schedule.

2021 Missions Conference

Theme: Can These Bones Live?

Guest Speaker: Dr. Thurman Williams, Sunday February 28

Sunday School: The Mills (Peru Mission)

We'll devote the videos in the Wednesday Update to our missionaries for Mission Month. There will also be Missions Moments each week during the worship service, and even videos in the Coming Sunday Updates to let you hear from our missionaries. Here's the schedule:

Schedule of Missionary Updates

Mission Moments:

- Sun, Feb 28, MM: Brian & Mandy Stock (India)
- Sun, Mar 7, MM: Brent Kooi (Australia)
- Sun, Mar 14, MM: Lee Thigpen, Mission First
- Sun, Mar 21, MM: Erin Kate Goode (CPC Friends/Center for Pregnancy Choices)
- Sun, Mar 28, MM: Robert & Keydra Garner (The Redeemer's School)

Wednesday Updates:

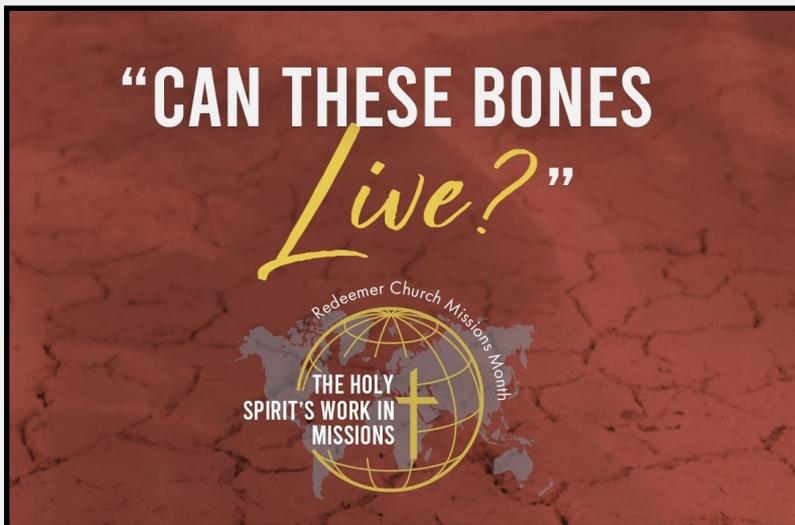
- Wed, Mar 3, WU: Samuel Bolen (Jackson Leadership Foundation)
- Wed, Mar 10, WU: O-Chan Odate (Church Planter, Chiba, Japan)
- Wed, Mar 17, WU: Franky & Alaina Garcia (Church planters, Canada)
- Wed, Mar 24, WU: Richard Pratt (Third Millennium Ministries)

Coming Sunday Updates:

- Fri, Mar 5, CSU: Diane Johnston (Life for Little Lambs)
- Fri, Mar 12, CSU: Chris & Josephine Hatch (Church Planters in England)
- Fri, Mar 19, CSU: Chuck McArthur (Equipping Leaders Int'l)

Don't forget the Family Missions Project! For details go to: <https://redeemerjackson.com/event/family-missions-projects-completed/>

For more information regarding Missions Month, please visit <https://redeemerjackson.com/event/2021-missions-month-begins/>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

- Charles Mitchell McGuffey Jr., 'Charlie', 2-17-21, son of Mitch and Amanda McGuffey
 - **Take Them a Meal:** <https://takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=CXMD0699>
- Micah Allen Hendricks, 2-14-21, son of Bryan and Katy Hendricks
 - **Take Them a Meal:** <https://www.takethemameal.com/DMTO1705>

CALLS TO ACTION

Now Hiring Administrative & Communications Assistant, 20 Hours per Week

This position provides administration and communications support for Redeemer Church. The person will create and/or manage communications including bulletins, weekly updates, mail printing and distribution, website/database management, and provide administrative support to the church office as a whole. For more information: <https://redeemerjackson.com/resources/administrative-communications-assistant/>.

Nursery Help Needed for Phase 4

Volunteers: 8:00am Nursery

Paid: Sunday School Nursery, Mom's Bible Study Nursery (Wed, 8:30-11:30am)

Email Velma Warner at: vwarner@redeemerjackson.com with questions or to sign up.

Redeemer Explored Begins TODAY Feb 21

Redeemer Explored discusses the mission, vision, theology, and distinctives of Redeemer, and is required to join the church. We will meet during the SS hour (9:45-10:35am) for 10 Sundays beginning Feb 21, and there will be both a Zoom and an in-person option. For more information: <https://redeemerjackson.com/event/redeemer-explored-begins-3/> if you want to send it to someone or RSVP.

Parenting Book Discussion Begins Feb 24

On 6 Wednesday nights this spring, Brian Gault will host a book discussion group on *Boundaries with Kids*. Drop your kids off at Upside Down and Cross Roads and come join us for a discussion of Christian parenting. Space is limited. For more information and to RSVP at: <https://redeemerjackson.com/event/boundaries-with-kids-book-discussion-begins/>.

NEWS TO NOTE

Director of Children's Ministry Search

Redeemer has officially begun the search for a new Director of Children's Ministry to join our staff and shepherd the children of our church and community towards Jesus. On the Search Committee page at: <https://redeemerjackson.com/resources/director-of-childrens-ministry-search/> we've posted the application, references, and a job description. We will be accepting applications until March 1. For questions, please email Zack Owens at: zowens@redeemerjackson.com.

Redeemer Contact Tracing Policy

Redeemer asks an attendee to contact the church office if (1) the attendee develops COVID symptoms within 48 hours of attending a worship service or event, and symptoms are followed by a subsequent positive COVID test or (2) the attendee tests positive for COVID within 48 hours without symptoms.

If alerted, Redeemer will communicate with those who were potentially exposed. This includes contacts who may have been within roughly 6' of the now COVID positive attendee for approximately 15 minutes or more.

- In a worship service, we will contact those who sat adjacent to your socially distanced seating section (next to or in front of), and anyone with whom you may have had a substantial conversation.
- In other events, we will make a determination of those who may meet the criteria for potential exposure.

Giving through Breeze

Anyone can give online, but you can also give through your Breeze account or set up automated giving through Breeze. Once logged in, click "Give Now" then "Recurring Giving."

THIS WEEK

Deacon on Call for the Week of Feb 21

Ellis Tucker, 601.842.1729

Sunday, Feb 21 Baptism Sunday

- 8:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship
Live Stream Available
- 9:45 am Serve Sunday School
- 9:45 am Redeemer Explored Begins
- 11:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship
- 5:30 pm Rooted
- 6:00 pm Rowan/Vickery Growth Group

Monday, Feb 22

Tuesday, Feb 23

- 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, Feb 24

- 6:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 1:00 pm Mom's Bible Study (Virtual)
- 6:00 pm Upside Down/Crossroads
- 6:00 pm Boundaries w Kids Book
Discussion
- 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Thursday, Feb 25

- 12:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Sunday, Feb 28 Missions Sunday

- 8:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship
Live Stream Available
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship
- 5:30 pm Rooted

PRAYER REQUESTS/UPDATES

- *Members serving in front-line fields: medical, emergency, grocery, restaurant, home care, etc.*
- *All those who are in the high risk categories for Coronavirus.*
- *Lydia Abraham: Mito Disease, Stage 4 Liver Cirrhosis, pain management and wisdom for Doctors in her treatment. **For updates on Lydia, please visit:** <https://caringbridge.org/visit/lydiaabraham>.*

COMING UP

- Sun, Feb 28** Missions Month Begins
- Mon, Mar 1** Session Meeting
- Mon, Mar 8** Diaconate Meeting
- Fri-Sat, Mar 26-27** Redeemer Together
(Church-Wide Retreat)

STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor
Steve Lanier, Assistant to the Pastor
Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship
Zack Owens, Asst Pastor of Children & Families
Wright Busching, Director of Youth Ministries
Lara Jensen, Asst Director of Youth Ministries
Symeon Robins, Music Director
Candace Robins, Assistant Music Director
Velma Warner, Nursery Coordinator
Felecia Marshall, Business Administrator
Mary Sanders, Administrative Assistant
Wilson Jamison, Intern

RULING ELDERS

Grant Callen
Gene Dent
Tommy Dent
Scott Marshall
Barry McCay
Kelle Menogan, Sr.
Marculis Mosby
Otis Pickett, Sr.
Paul Rankin
Herb Sanders
Kelly Simpkins
Trey Watkins

DEACONS

Grafton Bragg
Philip Carter
Davidson Forester
Jon Fults
David Garner
Jake Garner
John Hooker
Detrick Johnson
Baskin Jones
Cody McCain
Jonathan Shull
Jeremy Smith
Ellis Tucker
Tamarco White



640 EAST NORTHSIDE DRIVE | JACKSON, MS 39206

office@redeemerjackson.com | 601.362.9987

REDEEMERJACKSON.COM



Children's Bulletin



REDEEMER CHURCH

My Worship Notes

Your name: _____

Date:

Preacher:



Scripture: _____

Open your Bibles to the Scripture.

Is it in the Old Testament or
in the New Testament? OT/NT

The Scripture is on _____ in my Bible.

Listen to the sermon and mark each time you hear :



	<u>God</u>	<u>Jesus/Christ</u>	<u>Believe</u>

My favorite song we sang:



What are two things that were prayed for today?

1. _____

2. _____

1. What do we learn about God in this Scripture?

2. How does this good news change the way we think, feel, or live?



**Can you draw a picture from this scripture that helps
you remember God's Word?**

