

## REDEEMER CHURCH

A COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR THE CITY

**Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor**



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr. | September 19, 2021

*"Some Marks of a Healthy Church!"*

- Acts 9:19-30

### Reflection Quote

"God, in His goodness and love, has not called us to be Christians alone. Though we individually sin, and are called out of the world individually, we are also called to come together in a local assembly. This assembly is called, in the New Testament, a church. Of course, just as there are no perfect Christians in this life, so there are no perfect churches. Even the best churches fall far short of the ideal. Nevertheless, any church can be healthier than it is. In our own lives, we never see complete victory over sin, but as true children of God we do not therefore give up the struggle. Churches must not give up the struggle either. Christians, particularly pastors and church leaders, desire and labor to see healthier churches."

—Mark E. Dever

### Prelude

Musicians

### Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

### \* Call to Worship

*Colossians 1:15-23*

Mr. Wilson Jamison, Intern

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister."

### \* Prayer of Invocation, Confession of Sin, Reminder of Pardon

Mr. Wilson Jamison

### \* Song of Preparation

*"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"*

Let us love and sing and wonder, Let us praise the Savior's Name.  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder, He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame.  
He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood, He has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord Who bought us, Pitied us when enemies,  
Called us by His grace and taught us, Gave us ears and gave us eyes.  
He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood, He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing though fierce temptation, Threatens hard to bear us down.  
For the Lord our strong salvation, Holds in view the conqueror's crown.  
He who washed us with His blood, He who washed us with His blood,  
He who washed us with His blood, Soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder grace and justice, Join and point to mercy's store.  
When through grace in Christ our trust is, Justice smiles and asks no more.  
He who washed us with His blood, He who washed us with His blood,  
He who washed us with His blood, Has secured our way to God.

**\* Song of Praise**

*"Great Are You Lord"*

You give life, You are love You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope, You restore Every heart that is broken. Great are You, Lord

**Chorus:** *It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise It's Your breath in our lungs. So we pour out our praise to You only*

And all the earth will shout Your praise.  
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing great are You, Lord. *(Chorus)*

**Covenant Baptism**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Elizabeth Ann Hitchcock, Covenant Child of Andrew and Michelle Hitchcock (8:00am)

Micah Allen Hendricks, Covenant Child of Bryan and Katy Hendricks (11:00am)

Ruby Joy Smith, Covenant Child of Jeremy and Alli Smith (11:00am)

Ava Moore Smith, Covenant Child of Jeremy and Alli Smith (11:00am)

**Pastoral Prayer**

Mr. Paul Rankin, Ruling Elder

**Scripture Reading and Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Sermon Text**

*Acts 9:19-30*

**Sermon Title**

*"Some Marks of a Healthy Church!"*

**\* Hymn of Faith**

*"At the Cross"*

Alas! and did my Savior bleed and did my Sovereign die? Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as

**Refrain:** *At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light, And the burden of my heart rolled away,  
It was there by faith I received my sight, And now I am happy all the day!*

Thy body slain, sweet Jesus, Thine— And bathed in its own blood—  
While the firm mark of wrath divine, His Soul in anguish stood. Refrain.  
Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity! grace unknown!  
And love beyond degree! *(Refrain)*

Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut His glories in,  
When Christ, the mighty Maker died, For man the creature's sin. *(Refrain)*

Thus might I hide my blushing face while His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt my eyes to tears. *(Refrain)*

**\* Worship in Giving and Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Prayer Intercessor Team**

Mr. Paul Rankin/Mrs. Marianna Stone

**\*Please Stand.**  
**(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #257987)**



## SERMON NOTES

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr. | September 19, 2021

*"Some Marks of a Healthy Church!"*

- Acts 9:19-30



## SERMON NOTES

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## SERMON QUESTIONS

- Read the reflection quote in the bulletin. What do you think about it?
- When considering church health, we should probably begin by asking ourselves, "Am I a healthy church member? How do I contribute (or not) to church health at Redeemer?" Why is this an excellent place to start?
- In Acts 9:19-21, we learn that impartial evangelism by the laity is a mark of a healthy church. In this section of scripture, titles and names abound - Saul, Barnabas, Agabus, prophets, and elders. Are you surprised that the names of those announcing the Good News of Jesus to Jews and Greeks are unknown?
- How does evangelism make churches healthier?
- How can you grow in the art, courage, and desire to herald the Good News in your going, coming, working, resting, shopping, studying, and playing?
- In Acts 9:21-26, we learn that intentionally enfolding believers into a learning community is another mark of a healthy church. Based on the sermon, how do we know this was a healthy priority? What's at stake if new converts live lives alone and apart from sound teaching?
- How have you matured and remained steadfast under trials in this learning community? Do you know people in the body who seem to be disconnected from the learning community? How can we admonish, reach out to, and care for them?
- In Acts 9:27-30, we learn that widespread generosity is another mark of a healthy church. How do we see this in our passage?
- Are you generous with your time, table, talents, and treasure (money)? If not, what are you not believing about the Gospel or God's utter goodness to you?
- A careful reading of God's word reveals that the church's behavior in Antioch closely aligns with how Jesus lived his life! Jesus announced the good news to all types of people (Pharisees, tax-collectors, Jews, Gentiles, rich, poor, men, women, children, etc.)! Jesus was deeply connected to a learning, in-person, worshipping community. He devoted three years of his life to his disciples! He was a student and teacher. Luke 2:52 tells us, "Jesus *increased in wisdom* and stature and in favor with God and man." Hebrews 5:8 tells us, "Although he was a son, *he learned obedience* through what he suffered." John 1:38 says, "Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking? And they said to him, "*Rabbi (which means teacher)*, where are you staying?" Jesus was extremely generous. 2 Corinthians 8:9 says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." How should this motivate and empower us to do the same?

## **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).

<sup>1</sup>Taken from notes in the Reformation Study Bible

<sup>2</sup>Paper on covenant baptism by Dr. Bryan Chappell

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### \*\*\*CALLS TO ACTION\*\*\*

#### Register your Online Attendance

Roughly 400 people worship with us via livestream each week. In the last 3 weeks 212 have registered. If you are worshipping with us via the livestream, we want to know! Please register your attendance with the QR CODE during announcements.



#### Redeemer Explored Begins TODAY Sept 19

Would you like to know more about Redeemer Church? Are you interested in becoming a member? If so, we'd love to have you join us for the Redeemer Explored Class during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:35) that begins Sept 19. See the QR CODE to sign up or get more information.

#### Men's Ministry Kickoff on the Lake, Oct 2

**RESCHEDULED from Sept 18 to Oct 2** because of Tropical Storm Nicholas! Men, we will gather at a lake house about 50 minutes from the church to consider how we can follow Jesus together as men in this new year. There will be fishing, boating, corn hole, fellowship, and a waterslide. We'll throw balls around and throw meat on the grill. Join us on Sat, Oct 2 from 10am-3pm. Bring your son(s) 6th grade & up! Invite a friend! See QR CODE for more info & to RSVP.

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

#### Masks for Sanctuary Entrance & Exit

While we have Mask Optional seating, out of care for those who are more comfortable in Mask Required contexts, we are requesting everyone wear a mask as they enter and exit the sanctuary.

#### Fall Sunday School Begins, Sept 19

K4-5th grade Sunday School began last week during the Fall Sunday School Kickoff Brunch. This week adult and youth Sunday School begins. Here are the Adult SS Classes this Fall: (See QR CODE for a detailed description.)

- **Torah:** Gault, Simpkins, Mosby
- **One Another 101:** Owens, Lanier, Jamison
- **10 Commandments (Womens' Class):** Jones, Lanier, Turner, Callen
- **Redeemer Explored:** McGowan, Lanier, McCay

#### Men's Gatherings Begin, Sept 28

Our 8 weeks of Fall Men's Gatherings will run from Sept 28 - Nov 17, meeting for an hour at the church: 12-1pm on Tues or 6:30-7:30am on Wed. We're asking men to commit to 5 of the 8 weeks. As we pursue becoming more like Jesus together, the two aspects of Jesus' life and character we'll consider are: (See QR CODE for more info & to RSVP.)

- Jesus and Following
- Jesus and Sabbath

#### Kelly Simpkins to Sabbatical

Ruling Elder Kelly Simpkins has been approved to take a year-long Sabbatical from active duty in his office. Thank you for your service and may this season of rest replenish your soul.

#### Redeemer Together 2021

What a great day at Camp Pioneer! On Sat, Sept 11, we had a brass band, bounce houses, snow cones, boats on the lake, basketball, frisbee competitions, and even an epic kickball game. Thanks to all who came out! A special thanks to Zack and his team for putting this together, and to Kristen Owens for capturing these moments. Please see QR CODE to view pictures from that day.

### \*\*\*PRAYER REQUESTS/UPDATES\*\*\*

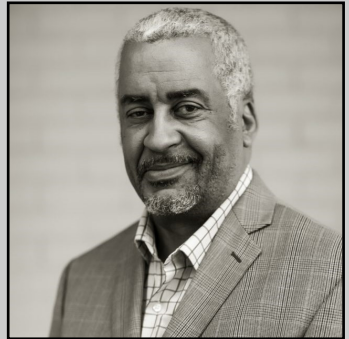
- *Murray Harris and family, as they grieve the loss of his sister.*
- *Claire Langley: For solutions with ongoing health issues.*
- *Members serving in front-line fields: medical, emergency, grocery, restaurant, home care.*
- *Lydia Abraham: Mito Disease, Stage 4 Liver Cirrhosis, pain management and wisdom for doctors in her treatment. For updates on Lydia, please see QR CODE.*



## Announcing New TRS Head of School

Redeemer is pleased to announce that Kelle Menogan has been hired to serve as the Head of School at The Redeemer's School, beginning January 1.

Kelle and his wife René have been members of Redeemer Church since 2005. Married for almost 40 years, they have 3 grown children and 7 grandchildren. At Redeemer, Kelle has served as a member of the diaconate for three years and as a ruling elder since 2010; currently serving as the chair of the administration committee and as the clerk of the session. He has been a member of the board of directors for The Redeemer's School since its inception serving as the board treasurer and chairman of the finance committee.



Kelle holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Environmental Design and is also a licensed residential builder. In 2019 he joined Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area as the Director of Construction Operations and has overseen the construction and rehabilitation of several homes in the Broadmoor neighborhood and the Jackson metropolitan area. Prior to joining Habitat, Kelle worked for Tougaloo College for 26 years- serving 17 years as the Vice President of Facilities and Real Property Management where he managed facility operations, the college's real estate holdings and the approximately \$75 million in capital improvement projects. Additionally, Kelle served as a member of the college's senior leadership team for three separate re-accreditation reviews and collaborated with other sectors on campus pertaining to student housing, student activities and major campus-wide events.

In his spare time Kelle enjoys spending time with family and friends and cheering on the Denver Broncos. As the new Head of School, Kelle is excited to continue serving the Lord by serving the children and families of The Redeemer's School.



## Jajuan McNeil Hired as Director of Children's Ministry

After initiating a search process in January 2021, Redeemer is excited to welcome Jajuan McNeil as our new Director of Children's Ministry.

Jajuan and his family – Joya, Cali (7), and Deuce (5) – have been members of Redeemer since 2017. Jajuan comes to us via Gary, IN and Oxford, MS. While a student at Ole Miss, Jajuan created, programmed, and executed an afterschool program for kids, networking with churches in the area to provide resources while developing leaders.

He has been regularly involved in children's ministry, mentoring, and coaching in a variety of contexts, including as a faithful Sunday School teacher, Upside Down leader, and Disability Ministry buddy at Redeemer. Jajuan holds a Master of Arts in Integrated Marketing Communications, a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, and comes to us from Progressive Insurance.

Since 2014, our children's ministry has more than doubled (growing from 40 to 150 children on Wednesday nights from 2014 to 2019). Jajuan's profound gifts in discipleship, equipping and encouraging children and families, and administration/organization make him a fantastic fit for our church. We are thrilled to welcome him to the staff.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

Fall Sunday School runs Sept 12 (Kickoff Brunch) – Dec 5

### Fall Sunday School at Redeemer 9:45am-10:35am

#### ADULTS

*Torah, From Paradise to the Promised Land:* Sanctuary

*One Another 101:* Room 2A

*Women's Class: The Ten Commandments:* Fellowship Hall

*Redeemer Explored:* Room 103

#### YOUTH (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

*Biblical Relationships (Part 2):* Youth Room

#### CHILDREN (K4-5<sup>th</sup>)

##### *K4-1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Stories of the Bible*

K4: Room 2C

K5 Classroom 1: Room 205

K5 Classroom 2: Room 203

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Room 204

##### *2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Biblical Themes & Building Blocks of the Faith*

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Room 218/219

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Room 220

##### *4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Bible Survey*

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Room 223/224

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Room 105

**Fall Growth Groups begin Sept 12-19.  
SUNDAY GROWTH GROUPS**



**OZIER/PEARCE**  
4:30pm  
Childcare provided  
(call ahead)  
Place: Pearce Home,  
Madison



**CalLEN/MARSHALL**  
5:00pm  
Childcare provided  
(call ahead)  
Place: Callen Home,  
Madison



**BERKOMPAS/STONE**  
5:00pm  
Childcare provided  
(call ahead)  
Place: Stone Home,  
Jackson



**EVANS/McGUFFEY/  
SMITH**  
5:00pm  
Childcare provided  
(call ahead)  
Place: McGuffey  
Home, Jackson



**KING/McNEIL**  
5:30pm  
No Childcare  
Place: Redeemer  
Church



**OWENS/SHULER/  
HOOD**  
5:30 pm  
Childcare provided  
(call ahead)  
Place: Owens Home,  
Jackson



**VICKERY/ROWAN**  
5:45pm  
No Childcare  
Place: Vickery Home,  
Jackson



**GAULT**  
6:00pm  
No Childcare  
Place: Gault Home,  
Clinton

**WEDNESDAY GROWTH GROUPS**

**McCAY/POLLARD/SIMPKINS**

6:30pm; Childcare provided (Redeemer programs)  
Place: Redeemer Church  
Jackson



**GARNER/WALLACE**  
6:30pm  
No Childcare  
Place: Garner Home,  
Brandon

## THIS WEEK

### Deacon on Call for the Week September 19

Ellis Tucker, 601.842.1729

### Sunday, Sept 19-Baptism Sunday

- 8:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship  
Live Stream Available
- 9:45 am Fall Sunday School
- 9:45 am Redeemer Explored Begins
- 11:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship
- 5:00 pm Sunday Growth Groups
- 5:30 pm Rooted

### Monday, Sept 20

### Tuesday, Sept 21

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

### Wednesday, Sept 22

- 6:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 9:00 am MOM's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Upside Down/Crossroads
- 6:00 pm Hope Exchange Community Group
- 6:15 pm Redeemer Officer Training
- 6:30 pm Wednesday Growth Groups

### Thursday, Sept 23

- 12:00 pm Women's Bible Study

### Sunday, Sept 26

- 8:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship  
Live Stream Available
- 9:45 am Fall Sunday School
- 11:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship
- 4:30 pm Sunday Growth Group
- 5:30 pm Rooted

### Let Us Know You were Here!

Please aim your smart phone camera at the QR code and fill out the short attendance form. This helps us keep track of Members and Visitors alike, and also includes links to announcements, online giving, and prayer requests.



## COMING UP

### Tues, Sept 28

Men's Gatherings Begin

### Sat, Oct 2

Men's Ministry Kickoff on the Lake

### Mon, Oct 4

Session & Diaconate Meeting

### Mon, Oct 4

Micro-business Enterprise Class Begins

## 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  
Symeon Robins, Music Director  
Candace Robins, Assistant Music Director  
Jajuan McNeil, Director of Children's Ministry  
Joya McNeil, Children's Ministry Assistant  
Velma Warner, Nursery Coordinator  
Wilson Jamison, Intern & Youth Ministry Assistant  
Stephanie Morton, Middle School Ministry Assistant  
Ann Chestnut, High School Ministry Assistant  
Felecia Marshall, Business Administrator  
Mary Sanders, Administrative Assistant

## RULING ELDERS

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

## DEACONS

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



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# 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:



<div></div>	<div>God</div>	<div>Jesus/Christ</div>	<div>Believe</div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

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?

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

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

