



## REDEEMER CHURCH

A COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR THE CITY

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



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

November 21, 2021

*"Two Potential Threats to God's Church Neutralized by the Church's God!"*

*Acts 18:18-19:20*

### Prelude

Musicians

### Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

### \* Call to Worship

*Psalm 16*

Mr. Wilson Jamison, Intern

"Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.' As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

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

Mr. Wilson Jamison

### \* Song of Preparation

*"Gospel Medley"*

O the blood of Jesus, O the blood of Jesus, O the blood of Jesus, It washes white as snow.  
O the cross of Jesus, O the cross of Jesus, O the cross of Jesus, His death brings life to me.  
O the love of Jesus, O the love of Jesus, O the love of Jesus, He freely gives to me.  
O the blood of Jesus, O the blood of Jesus, O the blood of Jesus, It washes white as snow.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder working pow'r in the blood of the Lamb;  
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder working pow'r in the precious blood of the Lamb.

\*\*\*\*\*

In The name of Jesus, In the Name of Jesus, We have the victory,  
In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus, Satan will have to flee, oooh tell me who can stand before us,  
when we call on that great name, Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus, We have the victory (Repeat)

### \* Song of Praise

*"Who You Say I Am"*

Who am I that the highest King Would welcome me?  
I was lost but He brought me in Oh His love for me Oh His love for me

**Chorus 1:** *Who the Son sets free Oh is free indeed I'm a child of God Yes I am*

Free at last, He has ransomed me His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin Jesus died for me Yes He died for me (*Chorus 1*)

**Bridge:** *You turn mourning to dancing You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory You're the only one who can*

**Chorus 2:** *In my Father's house There's a place for me I'm a child of God Yes I am*

I am chosen Not forsaken I am who You say I am You are for me  
Not against me I am who You say I am (*Chorus 1 & 2*)

**Covenant Baptism**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*Marvin Jennings Hill, Covenant Child of Justin and Becca Hill (8:00am)*

**Pastoral Prayer**

Mr. Gene Dent, Ruling Elder

**Scripture Reading and Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Sermon Text**

*Acts 18:18-19:20*

**Sermon Title**

*"Two Potential Threats to God's Church Neutralized by the Church's God!"*

**\* Hymn of Faith**

*"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; Our helper He, amid the flood of  
mortal ills prevailing: For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and  
pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing; Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same, And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us;  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure; One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever.

**\* Worship in Giving and Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Prayer Intercessor Team**

Mr. Gene Dent/Mrs. Betty Marsha Dent

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

## SERMON QUESTIONS

- In this section of Acts, Paul is on the move. Notice how often Luke tells us that Paul "took leave, left them, went up, departed, etc." Paul seems to know that his death is imminent (see 18:21, 20:22-26, and 21:13). How might the departure and eventual death of Paul be a threat to Church?
- How does God show us that He will neutralize this potential threat in the ministry of Apollos? In the ministries of Priscilla and Aquila?
- Multi-generational churches are beautiful and stabilizing gifts to the body! How are the younger members a blessing to the church now and in the future? Why is it essential for us to have older, humble saints in our church as well?
- The other threat in our passage is widespread demonic strongholds in the city of Ephesus. How do we know that Paul encountered this firsthand? (see also Ephesians 6:10-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:32)
- Magic arts/sorcery and Artemis worship were prevalent in Ephesus. This isn't innocent. It's Satanic. Humans were putting their trust in false gods and were blinded to the Truth. What demonic strongholds might we be up against in our own lives, city, state, and world? How are these things threatening the church?
- What does God do in the midst of this? Pay close attention to the words of 19:11. Who is ultimately responsible for these miracles? What do we learn about the combative and powerful nature of God?
- Paul's miracles seem to be evangelistic - they are done to validate the arrival of God's kingdom to those who can't see it. How are our "normal good works" miraculous and testaments to the arrival of the Kingdom of God to a world blinded by Satan?
- Compassion, caring for the poor, being generous, opening our homes to those who can't repay us, fighting injustice, offering forgiveness to those who hurt us, putting the needs of others before our own, being honest, practicing patience, remaining faithful in marriage, being chaste in singleness and a host of other things may seem ordinary but they are not. When has God used these normal behaviors in your own life to stimulate conversations about Christ?
- The miracles serve as a bridge to introduce residents of Ephesus to the Master! What role does teaching play in the building up of the church?
- Read the words of our closing hymn. Who is the ultimate keeper of God's people?

## **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)

### 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.

#### Birth

Malik Alexander Garner, 11-10-21, son of Robert & Keydra Garner  
See QR CODE for Take Them a Meal



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

#### 19 Volunteers Needed to Open 11am Nursery

We want to open Nursery at the 11am Service and need 19 more volunteers so volunteers serve once a month. (Thanks to the 4 that signed up last week!) If you can volunteer at the 11am service, please email Velma Warner at: [vwarner@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:vwarner@redeemerjackson.com) to sign up. (Thanks to those who are already serving at the 8am service!)

#### Children & Youth In-Service Training, Offered Dec 3

**\*Required for all nursery, children, and youth volunteers\*.** We will review our Child Safety Policies & Procedures – including supervision and reporting – as well as discuss the Mission and Vision of our Children and Youth Ministries. See QR CODE for more info & to sign up.

#### Men's Ministry Pilgrimage to Zion, Nov 22

On Mon, Nov 22, we'll rent a bus and head to New Orleans to watch Zion Williamson (we hope!) and the Pelicans take on the Minnesota Timberwolves. Seats are in the Lower Bowl along the baseline, rows 2-16 for only \$56 to \$38. Smoothie King Center has particular COVID protocols in place. See QR CODE for more details & to secure your ticket.

#### Receive the RCA Advent Calendar Digitally

The season of advent begins Sunday, Nov 28. Redeemer Community Arts created an advent calendar a few years ago that is now available in a digital format. Sign up to receive daily devotions alongside artwork—a guide to help readers contemplate the coming season of Christmas and the remembrance of the incarnation of our Savior. See QR CODE to sign up.

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

#### Narthex Artworks Project

Have you noticed the new artwork in our Narthex? Here's the story behind that artwork. The project resulted in three beautiful panels. See QR CODE to read how the project unfolded.

#### 5 Aspects of Healthy Membership

As many are reengaging in the life of the church, we want you to thrive at Redeemer. Here are 5 aspects of healthy membership:

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.

See QR CODE for more info.

#### Seating Changing in Section B

With COVID cases significantly in decline and in-person attendance on the rise, we need more space in the Sanctuary. The back half of section B is now **Mask Optional, Non-Socially Distanced** to expand our seating capacity.

#### Thanksgiving Service, Nov 21, 6pm

Join us on Sunday evening, Nov 21, as we practice gratitude and prepare our hearts for the Thanksgiving holiday with our Thanksgiving service at 6:00 pm.

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

- 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.**

## 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:* Room 103

*Redeemer Explored:* Fellowship Hall

### 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

## THIS WEEK

### Deacon on Call for the Week November 21

Detrick Johnson, 601.672.7214

### Sunday, Nov 21-Baptism Sunday

- 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 Rooted
- 6:00 pm Thanksgiving Evening Service

### Monday, Nov 22

- 2:45 pm Pilgrimage to Zion

### Tuesday, Nov 23

### Wednesday, Nov 24

### Thursday, Nov 25

- Thanksgiving Holiday-Office Closed

### Friday, Nov 26

- Thanksgiving Holiday-Office Closed

### Saturday, Nov 27

- 8:30 am Men's Basketball

### Sunday, Nov 28

- 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

## COMING UP

- Fri, Dec 3** Children & Youth In-Service Training
- Sun, Dec 5** Last Fall Sunday School
- Mon, Dec 6** Session & Diaconate Meeting
- Sun, Dec 12** New Members Join
- Sun, Dec 12** No Sunday School
- Sun, Dec 12** Christmas Cantata & Dessert
- Sun, Dec 19** No Sunday School
- Fri, Dec 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Sun, Dec 26** No Sunday School
- Sun, Dec 26** Joint Service 10:30am
- Sun, Jan 2** Joint Service 10:30am

## STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Steve Lanier, Director of Outreach & Missions  
Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship  
Zack Owens, Asst Pastor of Congregational Care  
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  
Jermaine Van Buren, Jr., Intern  
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?**

