

## REDEEMER CHURCH

A COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR THE CITY

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr. | January 16, 2022

**“Becoming Gracious Defenders of the Faith Everywhere and to Everyone”  
- Acts 21:37-22:9**

## Reflection Quote

"Fewer than one in 10 talks about God, faith, religion or spirituality even once a week (8%)—and only an additional 15 percent do so once a month. In fact, the average adult says they only have about one spiritual conversation a year. Okay, you say, that's low . . . but that's among *all Americans*. What about among *Christians*? Surely the people of God are talking about faith regularly? The answer, unfortunately and surprisingly, is not really. 75% of self-identified U.S. Christians are what we call *reluctant conversationalists*: They are having fewer than 10 spiritual conversations a year. In other words, for most Christians in the U.S., topics of faith come up less than once a month.

As spiritual leaders and practitioners, whose job it is to think and talk about matters of faith, it's easy to imagine everyone is regularly doing the same. After all, aren't these the big questions of life? Don't these topics matter more than anything else? The truth is, most Christians are busy with other things: the day-to-day of normal life—jobs, kids, budgets, sports, weather and what's premiering on Netflix this week. None of this is bad, but the unfortunate reality is that most adults don't seem to connect their everyday experiences with their faith. Or, at least, they aren't talking about it if they do. This stands in direct contrast to the vision Paul offers Christians in his epistle to the Romans 12:1-2. So what's happening here? Why are Christians so reluctant to talk about their faith?"

—Barna Report, *Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age*

## Prelude

Musicians

## Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

## \* Call to Worship

1 Peter 2:1-10

Rev. Brian Gault

Assistant Pastor of Shepherding and Discipleship

"So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,' and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

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

Rev. Brian Gault

## \* Song of Preparation

*"Be Glorified"*

Be glorified. Be glorified. Be glorified. Be glorified.

Be glorified in the heavens. Be glorified in the earth.

Be glorified in this temple. Jesus, Jesus, be Thou glorified.

Worship the Lord! Worship the Lord! Worship the Lord! Worship the Lord!

Worship the Lord in the heavens. Worship the Lord in the earth.

Worship the Lord in this temple. Jesus, Jesus, be Thou gloried.

## \* Song of Praise

*"Promises"*

God of Abraham You're the God of covenant and faithful promises  
Time and time again You have proven You'll do just what You said

**Pre-Chorus:** Though the storms may come And the winds may blow, I'll remain steadfast  
And let my heart learn when You speak a word It will come to pass

**Chorus:** *Great is Your faithfulness to me Great is Your faithfulness to me  
From the rising sun to the setting same I will praise Your name. Great is Your faithfulness to me, oh*

God from age to age Though the earth may pass away. Your word remains the same Your history can prove  
There's nothing You can't do You're faithful and True (*Pre-Chorus*)(*Chorus*)

Oh Your faithfulness, it never runs out

**Bridge:** *I put my faith in Jesus My anchor to the ground  
My hope and firm foundation He'll never let me down (Repeat)(Chorus)*

**Baptisms (11:00 am Only)**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*Walter Wynn Holmes, Covenant Child of Phillip and Jasmine Holmes  
Ezra Langston Holmes, Covenant Child of Phillip and Jasmine Holmes  
Malcolm James Holmes, Covenant Child of Phillip and Jasmine Holmes  
Payson Thomas Price, Covenant Child of Doug and Jenny Price*

**Pastoral Prayer**

Mr. Marculis Mosby, Ruling Elder

**Choral Worship**

*"Days of Elijah"*

Redeemer Choir

These are the days of Elijah, Declaring the word of the Lord,  
And these are the days of Your servant, Moses. Righteousness being restored

These are the days of great trials of famine and darkness and sword  
Still we are the voice in the desert crying, Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

**Chorus:** *Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun, at the trumpet's call  
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, Out of Zion's hill, salvation comes*

And these are the days of Ezekiel. The dry bones becoming as flesh  
And these are the days of Your servant, David, Rebuilding the temple of praise

And these are the days of the harvest. The fields are all white in the world  
And we are the laborers that are in Your vineyard, Declaring the Word of the Lord (*Chorus*)

**Bridge:** *There's no God like Jehovah (Chorus)*

**Scripture Reading and Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Sermon Text**

*Acts 21:37-22:9*

**Sermon Title**

*"Becoming Gracious Defenders of the Faith Everywhere and to Everyone"*

**\* Hymn of Praise**

*"Amazing Grace"*

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear. And Grace, my fears relieved.  
How precious did that Grace appear -- The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far, and Grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years -- Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise, Than when we've first begun.

**\* Worship in Giving and Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Prayer Intercessor Team**

Rev. Zack Owens/Ms. Diane Johnston

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

## SERMON NOTES

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr. | January 16, 2022

"Becoming Gracious Defenders of the Faith Everywhere and to Everyone"

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"Becoming Gracious Defenders of the Faith Everywhere and to Everyone"

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## SERMON QUESTIONS

- Read the reflection quote. Are those statistics surprising? Using self-reflection, would you be considered a reluctant conversationalist?
- In Acts 22-28, Paul defends the faith five times. First, he testifies about Jesus to a crowd of Jews (22), then the Jewish religious leaders (23), then Felix the governor (24), then Festus the governor (25), and then King Agrippa II and Bernice (26). He ultimately goes to Rome to speak of Jesus (28). Given the redundant nature of Paul's words, Luke could have easily summarized this. But he did not. Why do you think he repeats this?
- Do you believe there is a call upon all believers to be gracious defenders of the faith?
- If we are honest, it can be challenging to share our faith. What were the challenges mentioned in the sermon? Which reason(s) resonated the most with you? Are there others not mentioned?
- Paul's defense of the faith flows out of being transformed by the very Gospel he preaches! In other words, the Gospel the world needs is the very same Gospel that Christians need!
- How does the Gospel address the guilt of not sharing our faith? Dane Ortland, writing about the limitless supply of mercy and grace to those who come to Jesus for pardon, writes, "When we hold back, lurking in the shadows, fearful and failing, we miss out not only on our own increased comfort but on Christ's increased comfort. He lives to forgive and grant mercy. This is what he loves to do. His joy and ours rise and fall together."
- How does the Gospel supplant the fear of man with a genuine love for God and neighbor?
- How does the Gospel move us to see the power and significance of words in the salvation of sinners?
- How does the Gospel enable us to trust the simple, yet always glorious and complex, message of Hope?
- An African proverb says, "Many small people, who in many small places do many *small things*, can alter the face of the world." This is undoubtedly true for evangelism! Can you think of a few people you can pray for and arrange a few times to share the good news of Jesus?

## **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.



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

- Trace Roberson and children: Praise for the Lord's protection in a head-on collision, prayer for healing, grace, and provision in the recovery.
- Mary Dent, recovery from shoulder surgery.
- **See QR CODE for Take Them a Meal.**
- Members serving in front-line fields: medical, emergency, grocery, teachers, 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.**

### BIRTH

- Marquise Seneca Marshall, January 1, 2022, son of Nathan Marshall

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

#### Volunteer with Jackson Youth for Christ at Chastain Middle School, beginning Jan 20

Jackson Youth for Christ is looking for volunteers to minister to the student body at Chastain Middle School beginning January 20, 2022, from 7:30-8:00am. Two applications are needed. Jackson Public Schools and Youth for Christ. See QR CODE for more info. & to sign up.

#### Mission to North America's Disaster Response Training Session, Jan 22

Mission to North America is hosting a FREE Disaster Response Training Session on January 22, 2022 at the MNA Disaster Response Warehouse, in Rome, GA. There is no fee for the training, but travel, food and lodging will be the responsibility of the attendees. See QR CODE for more info. & to sign up.

#### Redeemer Explored Class Begins Feb 20

Thinking about becoming a member? Redeemer Explored is a 10-week class that explores the history, vision, and theology of Redeemer Church. Class runs from Feb 20 – May 1 on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:35am in Room 103. To hold your spot in the class, email [bgault@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:bgault@redeemerjackson.com).

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

#### Youth Ministry Transition

It is with sadness and joy that we announce that Wright Busching, our Director of Youth Ministry, is pursuing another call. As Wright finishes his Master of Divinity degree at RTS this spring, he is pursuing a call in either church planting or RUF campus ministry. He will continue to serve as Director of Youth Ministry until his call is settled and he moves on the field, which we expect will be sometime this summer.

Wright Busching has served faithfully at Redeemer as our Director of Youth Ministry since 2017, serving as a Deacon for 4 years before that. We are announcing his transition now so that we can begin the process of finding his replacement, praying for a seamless transition. As a sending church, Redeemer often has the joy of participating as God raises up future ministers of the gospel to serve God's kingdom in various ways around the world. But after 14 years at Redeemer, we are sad to see the Buschings go!



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

### **Director of Youth Ministry Search Committee**

With the news of Wright Busching's transition, the Session is forming a Search Committee to begin the process of identifying our next Director of Youth Ministry. Please pray with us that God will guide us through this process.

### **11am Nursery Open**

Nursery is now open at the 11am service. Parents, if you will be utilizing the Nursery for worship (8:00 or 11:00) or Sunday School please register your child(ren).

### **Connect Sunday School, Jan 16**

Adults and Youth, join us in the Sanctuary this Sunday during the Sunday School hour to hear about the various Connect Ministries in the life of Redeemer. Children (K4-5th grade) will report to their Sunday School classrooms.

### **Serve Sunday School, Jan 23**

Join us to learn about the various Serve Ministries in the church to find ways that you can plug in. We want every member to have a place to worship, learn, give, connect, and serve.

### **Children & Youth Schedule**

Rooted resumes Jan 23.

Upside Down & Crossroads resume Jan 26.

### **Hope Exchange Community Group Begins Jan 26**

Join Hope Exchange every Wednesday night from 6:00-7:45pm as we grow meaningful relationships and practice healthy communication. There will be food, fellowship, and gospel-centered conversation as we seek restoration in our lives and community.

### **Sunday School Kickoff Brunch, Feb 6**

Join us in the Sanctuary to learn about all the various Adult and Youth Sunday School offerings for the Spring. In addition to the Redeemer Explored Class, there will be a Parenting Discussion, a class on Creeds of the Faith, and another class on Evangelism. Come hear about the various offerings and then join us for a light brunch!

### **The Redeemer's Ball, Feb 12, 4:30-6:30pm**

This parent-child dance is for children ages 4-13. Fathers, bring your daughters; mothers, bring your sons! Light snacks will be provided. See the QR CODE to register by Feb 4.

### **Anniversary & Installation Service Moved**

In order to make the celebration of God's faithfulness to Redeemer more central in the life of the church, the Session is scheduling the Anniversary Service *in the morning* on Feb 13. At the 11am service, we will also have the ordination and installation of officers. During the Sunday School hour, we will have a reception (read "party"). Hope you can join us!

### **Masks on Entry & Exit**

With COVID numbers on the rise, we are asking that you mask up upon entering and exiting the sanctuary. At this time, we will continue with our 3 regular seating options.

**Spring Growth Groups begin January 9-16**  
**SUNDAY GROWTH GROUPS**



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



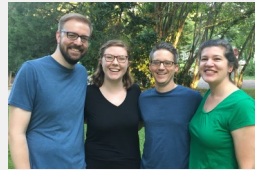
**CALLEN/  
MARSHALL**  
5:00pm  
Childcare provided  
(call ahead)  
Place: Callen Home,  
Madison



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



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



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



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



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



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

**WEDNESDAY GROWTH GROUPS**



**McCAY/POLLARD/  
SIMPKINS**  
6:30pm; Childcare provid-  
ed (Redeemer programs)  
Place: Redeemer Church  
Jackson



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

**Please see the QR CODE for specific meeting times and locations.**

## Congregational Meeting for Officer Elections on Jan 30, 9:45am

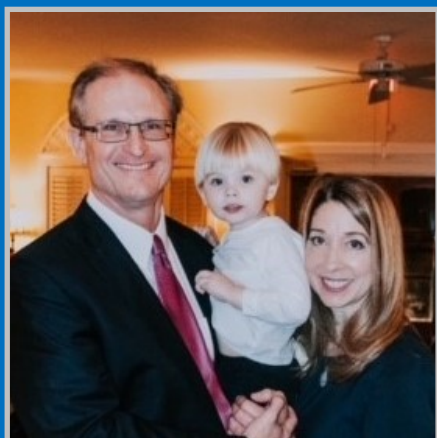
The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on Sun, Jan 30 for the purpose of electing officers. We will meet in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:35am).

The following four men have been nominated by the congregation, completed officer training, passed written and oral exams, and been approved by the Session:

**Office of Deacon:** Levi Gill, Blaise King, Greg Ross

**Office of Elder:** Shelby Watts

You will have a chance to vote to elect them to their office on Jan 30. If elected, they will be ordained and installed at our Anniversary Service on Sun, Feb 13 at 5:00pm. See QR CODE to read more about these men.



## THIS WEEK

### Deacon on Call for the Week January 16

Grafton Bragg, 601.624.1153

### Sunday, Jan 16 Baptism Sunday

8:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship  
Live Stream Available

9:45 am Connect Sunday School

11:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship

### Monday, Jan 17

### Tuesday, Jan 18

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, Jan 19

9:00 am Mom's Bible Study

### Thursday, Jan 20

12:00 pm Women's Bible Study

### Saturday, Jan 22

8:30 am Men's Basketball

### Sunday, Jan 23

8:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship  
Live Stream Available

9:45 am Serve Sunday School

11:00 am Limited Return to In-Person Worship

4:30 pm Sunday Growth Group

5:30 pm Rooted

## COMING UP

**Sun, Jan 23:** Serve Sunday School

**Sun, Jan 23:** Rooted Resumes

**Wed, Jan 26:** Upside Down/Crossroads resume

**Wed, Jan 26:** Hope Exchange Community  
Group resumes

**Sun, Jan 30:** Congregational Meeting,  
No Sunday School

**Sun, Feb 6:** Spring Sunday School Brunch

**Sun, Feb 13:** Anniversary Service & Officer  
Installation

**Sun, Feb 20:** Redeemer Explored Begins

## 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 data-bbox="90 1198 292 1377"><hr/><hr/></div>	<div data-bbox="306 1198 466 1377"><u>God</u></div>	<div data-bbox="479 1198 710 1377"><u>Jesus/Christ</u></div>	<div data-bbox="724 1198 908 1377"><u>Believe</u></div>
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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?**

