



**REDEEMER CHURCH**

A COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR THE CITY

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr. | January 22, 2023

*"Sex in Marriage Is Gloriously Good!"*

- 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

**Prelude**

Musicians

**Welcome and Announcements**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Time of Greeting**

\* **Call to Worship**

*James 1:16-18*

Rev. Zack Owens

Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care

*Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

**Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin**

Rev. Zack Owens

**Assurance of Pardon**

*Isaiah 53:5*

Rev. Zack Owens

*But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

\* **Song of Preparation**

*"Better Than Life"*

Your love is everlasting, it's an everlasting love,  
Your mercy is as new as every rising of the sun  
And Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life.

Your grace is all-sufficient, It's an all-sufficient grace,  
Your power and Your glory are forever on display  
And Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life.

**Chorus:** *Oh, it's better, Oh, better than life.  
Oh, so much better, Jesus, Your loving kindness is better than life.*

Fairest of ten thousand, Of ten thousand You are fair.  
And nothing in this world could ever measure or compare to  
Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life.

All your ways are just oh Lord, You're just in all Your ways.  
And I will lift my hands oh Lord with gratitude and praise.  
For Your loving kindness, loving kindness is better than life. (Chorus)

Jesus, Your loving kindness is better than life itself, better than life itself.  
Jesus, Your loving kindness is better than life itself, better than life.

\* **Song of Praise**

*"And We Are Glad"*

Hallelujah! You are worthy, Hallelujah! You get the highest praise.  
Hallelujah! You are holy Lord. We exalt your name. Repeat

Chorus: For You have done great things, done great things!  
For You have done great things, done great things!  
And we are glad, yes we are glad! And we are glad, yes we are glad!

Everlasting, ever giving, ever faithful, You get the highest praise.  
Ever loving, ever living Lord we exalt your name. Chorus

By Your blood we stand forgiven, in Your victory over sin and the grave  
Death is conquered! "He is Risen!" Lord we exalt your name.

**Old Testament Scripture Readings** *Proverbs 5:15-23; Song of Solomon 5:10-16; 7:10-13*  
Rev. Zack Owens

**Pastoral Prayer** Mr. Trey Watkins, Ruling Elder

**Worship in Giving** Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Choral Worship** Redeemer Choir

I was a wretch I remember who I was I was lost I was blind I was running out of time  
Sin separated the breach was far too wide But from the far side of the chasm  
You had me in Your sight

So You made a way across the great divide  
Left behind Heaven's throne to build it here inside  
There at the cross You paid the debt I owed  
Broke my chains freed my soul For the first time I had hope

**Chorus:** *Thank You Jesus for the blood applied Thank You Jesus it has washed me white  
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life Brought me from the darkness into glorious light*

You took my place laid inside my tomb of sin You were buried for three days  
But then You walked right out again And now death has no sting and life has no end  
For I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb (Chorus)

Bridge: There is nothing stronger Than the wonder working power  
Of the blood the blood That calls us sons and daughters  
We are ransomed by our Father Through the blood the blood (Chorus)

**Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination** Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Sermon Text** 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

**Sermon Title** "Sex in Marriage Is Gloriously Good!"

\* **Hymn of Faith** "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.*

\* **Benediction** Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Prayer Intercessor Team** Mr. Trey Watkins/Besty Watkins (8:00)  
Mr. Trey Watkins/Betsy Watkins (11:00)

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

## SERMON QUESTIONS

- What messages about sex did you hear growing up? How was it talked about in your home? How do you currently, if applicable, frame it for your children? How does this line up with the Bible?
- Read Proverbs 5:15-23. What is "the father" teaching his son? Why do you think Song of Solomon (SOS) is in the Bible? Next, read SOS 4:1-16, 5:10-16, and then 7:10-8:4. Who is talking in 4:1-16? Who is talking in 5:10-16? What's happening in 7:10-8:4? Why the admonishment to not "awaken love" until it pleases (or until the right time - marriage)?
- Sex is a beautiful gift of God to be enjoyed in marriage between one man and one woman. It is gloriously good. Therefore, "Paul finds the Corinthian maxim in 7:1 untenable for married people. Paul finds sexual abstinence in marriage both impractical and inappropriate." Do you believe this?
- Paul lays out some important Christian sexual principles. First, a husband must have his own wife. Likewise, a wife must have her own husband. Second, the husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights. Similarly, the wife should give to her husband his conjugal rights. Third, the wife does not have authority over her body; her husband does. Also, the husband does not have authority over his body; his wife does.
  - How was each Christian sexual principle radically different from the sexual codes of the Greco-Roman world? Each Christian principle demands the same behavior, loyalty and responsibility for both the man and woman in marriage!
  - Why would this have been good news? Why is this good news now?
- In our text, Paul explicitly reveals one practical reason sex should be enjoyed in marriage. However, there are several benefits. Do you remember the 5 benefits of love-making in marriage from the sermon? They all began with the letter "p."
- Sex in marriage is beautiful. Yet, like other areas of our lives touched by sin, the marriage bedroom does not get a pass. Many couples struggle in this area at different times for manifold reasons. How should the Gospel of Jesus inform our sexual intimacy with our spouses? How does the Gospel empower us to be radically "other-centered?" How does the patience of Christ with us make us more patient with one another? How does the forgiveness we experience at the cross enable us to forgive one another?
- Why does Paul allow sexual intimacy to be suspended, by agreement, for devotion to prayer? Sex in marriage points to something even more profound - our union and communion with God. Spend some time reflecting on God's love for you. He has rescued you. He will never abandon your body or soul. He is your true protector. He is your keeper. He has eternity planned for you. This is all because of Jesus, our true and eternal bridegroom! What impact would truly believing this have on husband and wife now?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- 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.
- Anna Splaingard and family: As they grieve the loss of Anna's mother, Sara Wilmesherr, who passed away unexpectedly on January 10.
- Diane Johnston: Recovery from hospitalization. See QR Code to take her a meal.

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

#### **Beautiful Community Seminar, Feb 3-4**

As a part of our 18th anniversary celebration, Irwyn Ince will be joining us to discuss the theological foundations of the multiethnic church rooted in the character of our triune God. Join us! More details to follow. See QR Code for times and topics.

#### **Men's Ministry Pilgrimage to Zion, Feb 7**

Men's ministry is taking a day trip to New Orleans for an NBA game on Tues, Feb 7. We'll see Zion Williamson and the Pelicans take on Trae Young and the Atlanta Hawks, a 6:30 tip on TNT. We'll leave around 2:15pm from the church parking lot and return around midnight. See QR Code for more information. Invite a friend. Bring your son!

#### **RYA Bowling at Fannin Lanes, Feb 10**

Join Redeemer Young Adults for a night of bowling and fun at Fannin Lanes on Friday, February 10 from 6-8pm! All are welcome! RSVP by texting Wilson Jamison 205.540.0369.

#### **RED Kids Night Out (Respite Night), Feb 17**

This is a night for parents with children touched by disability to take a night off while we provide respite care for their children. We are planning to have food, games, crafts, and a Bible lesson for the kids. We need both volunteers to help care for the children (disabled children and their siblings) and families touched by disability needing respite to sign up here.

#### **Galentine's Day Brunch, Feb 18**

Women of Redeemer! You are cordially invited to the Women's Committee Galentine's Day brunch. Come and fellowship with the ladies of Redeemer, enjoy fun activities, and eat good food. Please see QR code for additional information and to RSVP.

#### **High School Guys Small Group Begins, Feb 21**

High school guys, come and join us for a 5 week small group focusing on the Lord's Prayer. Each week, we will consider a petition of the Lord's Prayer and spend time praying together. If you are interested or have any questions, reach out to Wilson Jamison 205.540.0369.

#### **Lake Forest Ranch for 4th & 5th Graders, July 22-23**

We are planning to take rising 4th & 5th graders to Lake Forest Ranch July 22-26, 2023 for an overnight camp. Zack Owens will be the speaker those four days and we will ride together up to Macon from the church parking lot. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please email [mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com). RSVPs are due by Jan 31.

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

**Sunday School Schedule**

As we move into Sunday School for the Spring, here is the upcoming schedule:

- Jan 22: SS Kickoff Brunch for Adults & Youth (k4-5th grade in regular SS), Fellowship Hall
- Jan 29: Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary
- Feb 5: 18th Anniversary Reception, Fellowship Hall
- Feb 12: Adult & Youth SS begins

**Women's Bible Studies Resume for Spring**

We want to invite you to join a Women's Bible Study this spring! We will all be studying the second half of the Gospel of Matthew. Starting back dates are as follows:

- Wed Morning, Wed Night, Mom's: Jan 11 • Tues Night: Jan 17 • Thurs Noon: Jan 26

Whether or not you have participated in a Women's Bible Study yet, we would love to have you! See QR Code for information on the groups.

**Growth Groups Have Resumed**

Looking for a way to connect in the life of Redeemer in this new year? Growth Groups are a great way to get to know other believers, and January is a great time to get plugged.

**Hope Exchange Community Group Has Resumed**

The Hope Exchange community group's focus during the Spring of 2023 will be knowing our stories and overcoming our roadblocks. This group is for any adult and provides a supportive community in which people of all backgrounds can gain skills to manage their lives, work toward their goals, build healthy relationships, and honor God in the process. in. See QR Code for more information.

## Congregational Meeting, Jan 29

### Officers Standing for Election

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on Jan 29 during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:35am) for the purpose of electing officers standing for election. We will meet in the Sanctuary.

We have three Elders and two Deacons standing for election. These men have been nominated by the congregation, have completed a rigorous officer training program, and have been examined and approved by the Session to stand for election.

Standing for the office of:

#### Elder:

Tu Combs, Andy Sauerwein, William Stackler



**Deacon:** Reid Haygood, Johnston Walker



If you don't know these men already, or have questions for them, we would encourage you to reach out to them in this month to get to know them. You can learn about them visit the QR code.

If elected, these men will be ordained and installed at our 18th Anniversary Service on Feb 5.

## THIS WEEK

### Deacon on Call for the Week January 22

Karl Arndt, 601.720.4247

### Sunday, January 22

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

### Monday, January 23

### Tuesday, January 24

### Wednesday, January 25

- 9:00am Mom's Bible Study  
6:00pm Hope Exchange  
6:00pm Upside Down  
6:00pm Crossroads  
6:00pm Men's Bible Study

### Thursday, January 26

### Friday, January 27

- 6:30pm Community Arts ArtShare

### Saturday, January 28

- 8:30am Men's Basketball

### Sunday, January 29

- 8:00am Worship Service  
Livestream Available  
9:45am **Congregational Meeting**  
11:00am Worship Service  
5:30pm Rooted



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

## STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship  
Zack Owens, Asst Pastor of Congregational Care  
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, Interim Youth Director  
Jermaine Van Buren, Jr., Intern, Youth Ministry Assistant  
Gabriel Garcia, Intern  
Daniel Covert, Intern  
Stephanie Morton, Assistant Youth Director  
Ann Chestnut, High School Ministry Assistant  
Felecia Marshall, Business Administrator  
Tina Collier, Administrative Assistant

## RULING ELDERS

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

## DEACONS

Karl Arndt  
Grafton Bragg  
Philip Carter  
Davidson Forester  
Jon Fults  
David Garner  
Jake Garner  
Levi Gill  
John Hooker  
Detrick Johnson  
Baskin Jones  
Guin Kendrick  
Blaise King  
Cody McCain  
Greg Ross  
Jonathan Shull  
Ellis Tucker  
Thomas Wallace

## COMING UP

Feb 3-4: Beautiful Community Workshop  
Feb 5: 18th Anniversary Service  
Feb 9: Middle School Roller Skating Night  
Feb 10: RYA Goes to Fannin Lanes  
Feb 11: The Redeemer's Ball  
Feb 16: RYA & Brian Gault on Justice  
Feb 18: Galentine's Day Brunch  
Feb 21: High School Guys Small Group Begins  
Mar 31-Apr 1: Biblical Sexuality Seminar  
Apr 7: RYA MS Braves Home Opener Friday  
Apr 21-22: Redeemer Together