

Waiting



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—December 3, 2023
“Advent: Faithfully Waiting on the Return of Our Faithful God”
— Luke 12:35-48

Prelude

Musicians

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

* Call to Worship

Titus 2:11-14

Mr. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.
Intern

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Mr. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 1:7

Mr. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace,

* Song of Preparation

“Gospel Medley”

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

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ Name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)

His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay. (Refrain)

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne. (*Refrain*)

Corporate Confession of Faith *The Nicene Creed* Mr. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer Mr. William Stackler, Ruling Elder

Worship in Giving Mr. William Stackler

Please find the Connect Pad on your pew at this time to sign in and pass it down the row.
Visitors: If you would like to be contacted by the church, please include your email address.

Choral Offertory *"Heal Us, Emmanuel"* Redeemer Ensemble
Led by Mr. Stan Wagon

Here we are we long to feel,
Deep wounded souls to thee we fly,
Deep wounded souls to thee we cry, O Savior, hear our cry.
Here we are, we long to feel thy touch-- Heal us, Emmanuel. (William Cowper)

Arise, shine, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you!
Nations shall come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising...
And His glory shall be seen among you...
Arise. (Isaiah 60:1-3)

Today's choral offertory is an advent work written during the pandemic for the Redeemer Ensemble. It is based on William Cowper's poignant 18th century hymn, "Heal Us, Emmanuel", and an interweaving of Isaiah 60:1-3. William Cowper, an English poet, co-wrote The Olney Hymns with his friend, English pastor John Newton. Most-known hymns published in this 1779 hymnal are Newton's "Amazing Grace", and Cowper's beloved "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood", along with a number of others. Paul Rankin paired Cowper's hymn with the Isaiah text.

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

Sermon Text Luke 12:35-48

Sermon Title *"Advent: Faithfully Waiting on the Return of Our Faithful God"*

*** Communion Hymn**

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; From our fears and sins
release us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;

Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!

O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:

"Go to Him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;

By His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.

Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;

This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Communion

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr. and the Elders

*** Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*** Departing Song**

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a Child and yet a King, Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Prayer Intercessor Team

Mr. Tommy Dent/Mrs. Mary Dent (8:00am)

Mr. William Stackler/Mrs. Amy Stackler (11:00am)

***Please Stand.**

(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #257987)

SERMON QUESTIONS

- Have you noticed how hurried the world is? When have you witnessed or participated in the culture of impatience?
- Advent is a counter-cultural season of waiting. Our passage calls us to become faithful in our waiting until our faithful God returns. In the Bible, when do we first see that God's people will be known by longing and patience? Can you think of other examples where God's plans and promises take a while to come to fruition? What must God's people do in those moments?
- Interact with this quote by Jonathan Gibson. "In both dispensations of redemptive history, the people of God are defined by waiting. In the Old Testament, believers wait for Jesus' first coming; in the New Testament, believers wait for His second coming. In both cases, God's people live in light of Christ's advent."
- In our passage, Jesus repeatedly uses phrases like "to come, he comes, was coming." What is the significance of this repetition? What things tend to hide his final return from us?
- Jesus then discloses what He will be like at His final return. Pastor El said, "At his final coming, Jesus will be more beautiful and gracious than you can imagine, and He will be more terrifying and dangerous than you can dream." How do we see this in the passage? What does this picture of Christ do to your mind and heart?
- To wait faithfully, we must respond to his future, inevitable and glorious return correctly, right now. In this text, waiting is not passive. In fact, it's very active. What does girding our loins, keeping our amps lit, and staying awake all have in common? How can we do that now?
- Waiting faithfully also demands that we love our neighbor and live self-controlled lives. Are you doing this now?
- How does the Gospel carry away our guilt for not waiting faithfully? Advent then, is not just a season of waiting on Christ to return in the future, it is also a time to remember Christ's work in the past. It is a time to experience His great love, forgiveness, and gifts in the present. How does looking at both advents move us to stay alert and ready, loving and self-controlled?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday

Let Us Know You Were Here!

Please find the Connect Pad on your pew and sign in. This helps us keep track of Members and Visitors alike. On the QR Code you'll find links to announcements, online giving, and prayer requests.



*** PRAYER REQUESTS/UPDATES ***

- Sonya Scott and the Frisby family: As they grieve the loss of her aunt, Gail Frisby.
- 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.

*** SEEKING TO SERVE ***

RED Christmas Deliveries Wrap Night, Dec 6

We will be wrapping gifts and writing cards for our RED Christmas Deliveries. Come enjoy the Christmas Fellowship meal at 6:00pm, and then hop on over at 6:30pm in Room 109 to help us wrap. Bring some scissors and tape, and we will provide the wrapping paper. All ages welcome!

There are 3 ways you can serve with us to make this event possible!

1. Help purchase gifts (Please sign up by Dec 4).
2. Join us for wrap night as we wrap gifts and make Christmas cards on Dec 6.
3. Join us for delivery night on Dec 13.

See QR Code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more info and to sign up.

Second Saturday Serve, Dec 9

Come serve 3 H Ministry -- Hearts & Hands for Hispanics for December 9 Serve Day! We'll be cleaning & painting at a house behind Redeemer! Come learn and gain from their heart for God's church full of all His people with a rich multi-cultural worship of our one true King. See QR Code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more info and to sign up.

RED Christmas Deliveries, Dec 13

Join us for an evening of delivering Christmas cheer and gifts to families in our church and community touched by disability on December 13. We will meet at the church at 5:30pm to enjoy treats and pray before dividing up into groups to drive to the homes to visit our families. Adults, children, youth, families – all are welcome! See QR Code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more info and to sign up.

*** CALLED TO CONNECT ***

Christmas Fellowship Meal, Dec 6

Let's gather as a church family during Advent to share a Christmas-themed Fellowship Meal on Wed, Dec 6. No agenda, just hospitality, connectedness, and belonging together as a church family to turn our hearts towards the Christmas Holiday. The meal is POT-LUCK style in the Fellowship Hall. On December 6, if your LAST NAME starts with...

A-I: bring a main dish

J-Q: bring a side

R-Z: bring a dessert

See QR Code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for all the details.

RYA Secret Santa Potluck, Dec 15

Come and enjoy a fun and mysterious Secret Santa Potluck at Sarah Barrow's house for some laughter and community!! Bring a friend or two, on Friday, December 15, from 6:00-9:00pm. We will meet at the home of Sarah Barrow (RSVP for address). See QR Code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more info. RSVP by texting Jermaine Van Buren Jr., 601.337.2752.

*** NEWS TO NOTE ***

Now Hiring: Communications & Events Coordinator

Mary Sanders is retiring at the end of January 2024, and we are looking for a 20-hour-a-week Communications & Events Coordinator to begin January 8.

A qualified candidate would be a detail-oriented self-starter who writes well. The candidate must possess a love for Jesus and His Church and embrace the mission and vision of Redeemer Church. See QR Code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information on the position and the job description.

Redeemer Community Arts: Narthex Artwork

During Advent RCA is facilitating a corporately made art piece, *Stars of Promise: Waiting in Deep Darkness*. Stop by the table in the narthex each week to pin your own contribution to the artwork as we work together to complete it for our Christmas Eve candle-lighting service.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 - 10:35am

Fall Adult Sunday School, Block 2

Oct 29 - Dec 10

What God has Joined Together: Fellowship Hall

Living in Rhythm with Christ: Room 109

Fall Youth Sunday School

Sept 10 - Dec 10

Middle School, Westminster Shorter Catechism: Youth Room

High School, Mark Jones' God Is: Youth Room

Fall Children's Sunday School

Sept 10 - Dec 10

K4-1st Grade: Stories of the Bible

K4: Room 211

K5: Room 209

1st Grade: Room 207

2nd-3rd Grade: Biblical Themes & Building Blocks of the Faith

2nd Grade: Room 210

3rd Grade: Room 202

4th-5th Grade: Bible Survey

4th Grade: Room 206

5th Grade: Room 204

THIS WEEK

Deacon on Call for the Week Dec 3

David Garner, 601.850.4415

Sunday, December 3 Communion

8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
Various Sunday Growth Groups

Monday, December 4

6:00pm Session Meeting
6:00pm Diaconate Meeting

Tuesday, December 5

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

Wednesday, December 6

9:00pm Mom's Bible Study
6:00pm Christmas Fellowship Meal
6:00pm Hope Exchange Community Group
6:30pm RED Christmas Deliveries Wrap Night

Thursday, December 7

12:00pm Women's Bible Study
6:00pm GriefShare

Friday, December 8

Saturday, December 9

8:30am Men's Basketball
9:00am Second Saturday Serve

Sunday, December 10

8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available
9:45am Fall Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service

COMING UP

Dec 13: RED Christmas Deliveries
Dec 15: RYA Secret Santa Potluck
Dec 17: No Sunday School
Dec 24: Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service
Dec 24: No Sunday School
Dec 31: No Sunday School
Jan 8: Session & Diaconate Meetings
Jan 14: Mission & Vision Joint Sunday School Begins
Jan 28: Rooted Returns
Jan 31: Upside Down & Crossroads Return
Feb 4: 19th Anniversary Service
Feb 25: Mission Month Begins

STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor
Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship
Zack Owens, Asst Pastor of Congregational Care
Jajuan McNeil, Director of Children's Ministry
Joya McNeil, Children's Ministry Assistant
Velma Warner, Nursery Coordinator
Wilson Jamison, Asst Pastor of Youth Ministry
Stephanie Morton, Assistant Youth Director
Jermaine Van Buren, Jr., Intern, Youth Ministry Asst
Gabriel Garcia, Intern
Daniel Covert, Intern
Felecia Marshall, Business Administrator
Mary Sanders, Communications & Events Coordinator
Tina Collier, Administrative Assistant
Interim Music Ministry Team:
Joyce Hamme, Arthur Phillips, Kateri Gill, Akida Mosby

RULING ELDERS

Grant Callen
Tu Combs
Gene Dent
Scott Marshall
Barry McCay
Kelle Menogan, Sr.
Marculis Mosby
Herb Sanders
Andy Sauerwein
William Stackler
Shelby Watts

DEACONS

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

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