



## REDEEMER CHURCH

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—January 21, 2024

*“A Beautiful Birthright Graciously Given to Struggling People”*

— Genesis 25:24-34

### Prelude

Musicians

### Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

### \* Call to Worship

Hebrews 12:15-16, 22-24, 28-29

Rev. Wilson Jamison

Assistant Pastor of Youth Ministry

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal...But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel...Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

### Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Rev. Wilson Jamison

### Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53:5

Rev. Wilson Jamison

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

*“O, How I Love Jesus”*

There is a Name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;  
It sounds like music in my ear, The sweetest Name on earth.

**Refrain:** O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus,  
Because He first loved me!

It tells me of a Savior's love, Who died to set me free;  
It tells me of His precious blood, The sinner's perfect plea. (*Refrain*)

It tells me what my Father hath in store for ev'ry day,  
And, tho I tread a darksome path, Yields sunshine all the way. (*Refrain*)

It tells of One whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;  
Who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below. (*Refrain*)

### \* Song of Praise

*“Bless That Wonderful Name of Jesus”*

Bless that wonderful name of Jesus. Bless that wonderful name of Jesus.  
Bless that wonderful name of Jesus—No other name I know.

There's power in the name of Jesus. Power in the name of Jesus.  
Power in the name of Jesus—No other name I know.

Bless that wonderful name of Jesus. Bless that wonderful name of Jesus.  
Bless that wonderful name of Jesus—No other name I know.

There's healing in the name of Jesus. Healing in the name of Jesus.  
Healing in the name of Jesus—No other name I know.

There's victory in the name of Jesus. Victory in the name of Jesus.  
Victory in the name of Jesus—No other name I know.

### **Covenant Baptism**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*Isaac Lee Hendricks, Covenant Child of Bryan and Katy Hendricks (8:00am)*  
*Elaine Margaret Dixon, Covenant Child of Clay and Madison Dixon (11:00am)*

### **Pastoral Prayer**

Mr. Gene Dent, Ruling Elder

### **Worship in Giving**

Mr. Gene Dent

*\*\*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.*

### **Congregational Song**

*"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.

### **Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

### **Sermon Text**

*Genesis 25:24-34*

### **Sermon Title**

*"A Beautiful Birthright Graciously Given to Struggling People"*

### **\* 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.

### **\* Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**\* Departing Song**

*"Amazing Grace"*

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.

**Prayer Intercessor Team**

Mr. Gene Dent/Mrs. Betty Marsha Dent

**\*Please Stand.**

**(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #257987)**

## **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

## **SERMON NOTES**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—January 21, 2024

*“A Beautiful Birthright Graciously Given to Struggling People”*

— *Genesis 25:24-34*

## SERMON QUESTIONS

- Rebekah and Isaac were infertile for 20 years of their marriage. They prayed and sought the LORD. He answered Isaac's prayer and then gave Rebekah insight into how her twins would interact with one another. Do you remember what God told her?
- Those twins struggled together in utero (25:22), at birth (25:24-26), and when they had grown up (25:27). Furthermore, this conflict continued in the respective nations formed from them long after they were dead (Num.20:14-21)! What do we make of this? How does seed theology help us make sense of this conflict? Have you ever wondered why Christians are persecuted, hated and suffer at the hands of unbelievers?
- We make the mistake if we only think unbelievers harm believers. Our passage also reminds us that believers can easily mistreat or sin against other believers. Where do we see this in this text?
- On some level, this passage is ultimately about the birthright. How do we see this grammatically? Why was it so important then?
- How does Esau treat the birthright (see also Hebrews 12:15-16)? Why might Isaac want Esau to have it, against God's decree in 25:23? While Jacob is never scolded in scripture for his cunning ways, why is he no better than Esau?
- On some level, no one in this passage is worthy of God's beautiful birthright. Truth be told, we are in some ways like the people in this passage. When have you been like Esau? Isaac? Jacob?
- This passage is a reminder that the blessing of the firstborn can be given to those who are not, by definition, true firstborns! God's true firstborn son is Jesus. He is a greater Jacob. Contrast Jesus with Esau and Jacob. How is Jesus better?
- Jesus is the one who brings the blessings of God's promise to Abraham to us. In Christ, we have a people, a place, protection, and God's presence with us! Meditate on this. How does receiving this "birthright" transform us into a people that blesses other people, cherishes and pursues friendship with God's family, renounces underhanded and deceitful ways, experience hope in the face of death, trust God's vengeance at the final judgement, marvel at God's radical forgiveness for all of our sins now, and joyfully awaits our eternal home?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Paisleigh Miller, daughter of Stephen and Abbey Miller: Recovery from pneumonia.
- 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

- Tindall Wilson Tramel, 1-4-24, daughter of Robert and Sarah Tramel. See QR Code to Take Them a Meal.

### \*\*\* SEEKING TO SERVE \*\*\*

#### Volunteers Needed for Nursery

Volunteers are needed to serve in the Nursery for both the 8am & 11am Services. We'd love to have enough volunteers so that each will only have to serve once a month. If you can volunteer at either service, please email Velma at [vwarner@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:vwarner@redeemerjackson.com) to sign up. Thanks to those who are already serving!

#### Interested in Helping with Children's Church?

We are looking to restart children's church in the near future for children aged 4 and 5. To do so, we need 1 adult teacher and 6 assistants. The ideal schedule would have you serving one time, every other month.

Please contact Jajuan McNeil at [mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com) if you are interested in serving.

#### Upside Down to Restart on Jan 31

We are gearing up for Spring Upside Down and are looking to add 5 more adults to the leadership team. Upside Down will meet for 10 weeks in the Spring, (Jan 31-Feb 28 and Mar 20-Apr 17). The goal of Upside Down is to grow in relationship to our children and one another. If you are interested in teaming up with Redeemer Kids as a leader, contact Jajuan McNeil at [mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com).

#### The Redeemer's Ball, Feb 3, 4:30-6:30pm

We're looking for volunteers to help chaperone or with set up and tear down for the Redeemer's Ball. This is one of the many ways that we, as a church, celebrate our covenant connections with one another and with our children. Please email Joya McNeil if you are willing to help.

### \*\*\* CALLED TO CONNECT \*\*\*

#### Redeemer Community Arts ArtMake, Jan 25

Join us for a beginner pottery workshop at Soul City Studio (161 Millsaps Ave., Jackson MS 39202) from 6:30-8:30pm. It will be an evening of fellowship alongside hands-on creativity (no experience necessary). Please dress to make a mess, and bring a food item to share if you'd like! Cost is \$10-Space is limited. See QR code for more information and to sign up.



### **GriefShare Begins, Jan 30**

GriefShare is a 13-week program offered to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. Facilitators from Redeemer will lead a support group on Tuesday nights this Spring. See QR code for more information and to sign up.

### **Faith & Finances-Hope Exchange Community Group Begins, Jan 31**

Faith & Finances is an empowering course where participants receive financial stewardship coaching in the midst of a supportive community. The course equips people of all backgrounds with the skills to manage their money, build healthy relationships, and honor God in the process. We will meet Wednesdays at 630 Wellington Road from 6:00-7:30pm. See QR code for more information and to sign up.

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



#### **Welcome Corrie Keplinger!**

We are thrilled to welcome Corrie Keplinger to our team as the new Communications & Events Coordinator! Corrie started on January 8 and is learning the nuances of the position from Mary Sanders, who is set to retire January 31. Please pray for both of them in this transition.

### **Giving Update through December 2023**

Our budget year runs from July - June.

*Thank you for your generous giving!*

#### **General Fund**

Total Budget: \$1,745,547

Year-to-Date Budget: \$872,774

Year-to-Date Giving: \$831,313

Dec Budget: \$145,462

Dec Giving: \$196,763

#### **Faith Promise**

Total Budget: \$169,020

Year-to-Date Budget: \$84,510

Year-to-Date Giving: \$56,020

Dec Budget: \$14,085

Dec Giving: \$12,503

# **SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**9:45 - 10:35am**

**Spring Adult Sunday School, Block 1**

**Feb 11-Mar 24**

## **Jesus is Building His Church in a Dechurching World: Fellowship Hall**

In The Great Dechurching, Jim Davis explores the greatest religious movement in American history—40M have left the church in the last 25 years. Now, perhaps more than ever, we need a robust, biblical picture of what the Church is and why it matters. The Bible defines the Church as a building, a body, and a bride. Jesus died for the Church and the Bible is written to the Church. Understanding the Church properly is central both to understanding the Bible and to living the Christian life.

In this class, we will explore a robust definition of the Church, the story of the Church, the mission of the Church, what makes a healthy church, and the multiethnic church. We will also explore the relationship of the Church and the world, especially in light of our current cultural moment.

### **Forgiveness: Room 109**

"If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him.'" (Luke 17:3-4)

How, when, and why must we forgive? Jesus sets for us a high standard, rooted in the forgiveness lavished upon us through the cross. But how do we practice this forgiveness in our own lives, in our deepest hurts? How can the forgiveness we've been shown in Christ make us into forgiving people?

Together, we will consider important scriptures on the topic of forgiveness, as well as the practical relational process involved in offering forgiveness to others and the hope of reconciliation."

## **Spring Youth Sunday School**

**Feb 11-May 12**

### **Middle School, Worship at Redeemer: Youth Room**

Worship at Redeemer: For those who have grown up in the church, Sunday mornings can become rote. We can be tempted to simply go through the motions. So, our Youth Sunday school will study "Worship at Redeemer." In the class, we will unpack the reason and rhythm of our Sunday morning worship service by explaining the elements of worship and seeing them expressed in the worship service. We will address questions like... "Why do we worship?" and "How can two churches look different, but still be faithful?"

### **High School, Evangelism: Youth Room**

Evangelism: In this class, we are equipping students to engage their unbelieving friends and share the gospel with them. According to the Gallup Polls, 88% of people who visited church for the first time did so because they were invited by a friend. And according to The Great De-Churching, 86% of people who have left the church say they would revisit the church if a friend invited them. By offering this class alongside "Worship at Redeemer", we hope to help students see that part of evangelism can be as simple as inviting their friends to church.

## **Spring Children's Sunday School**

**Feb 11-May 12**

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

**K4: Room 211**

**K5: Room 209**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Room 207**

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Room 210**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Room 202**

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

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Room 206**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Room 204**

### **\*\*\* Redeemer Kids \*\*\***

*K4-5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

**Jan 31: Upside Down Returns**

**Feb 1: Forest Lake Ranch Deadline**

We are gearing up to go back to Lake Forest Ranch for summer camp for third and fourth graders July 18-22. The deadline to let us know that you want to go to camp is Feb 1. Please email Jajuan McNeil at [mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com) for more information and to let him know that you plan to go.

**Feb 3: The Redeemer's Ball**

This opportunity is for children, K4-5<sup>th</sup> grade, who attend Redeemer Church or The Redeemer's School. It is a parent-child dance that brings together Redeemer Church and The Redeemer's School to spend time with one another and enjoy an evening together on Sat, Feb 3, from 4:30-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. As part of the covenant community, if you would be willing to accompany a child, or if your child would like to go but they need someone to accompany them, email Jajaan McNeil at [mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com). See QR Code for more info and to register by Jan 26.

### **\*\*\* Redeemer Youth \*\*\***

*6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade*

**Jan 25: Youth Movie Night**

A fellowship night for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Redeemer Youth students, let's kick off the semester with a Movie Night! We will have a popcorn bar and drinks- you can bring an appetizer or movie snack to share. We will be voting on the movie in our GroupMe. Movie Night is Thursday, January 25, from 5:30-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. For more info contact Stephanie Greer at [smorton@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:smorton@redeemerjackson.com).

**Jan 28: Rooted Returns**

**Jan 31: Crossroads Returns**

**Feb 1: High School Girls Small Group Begins**

## THIS WEEK

### Deacon on Call for the Week Jan 21

Guin Kendrick, 601.934.8326

### Sunday, January 21

- 8:00am Worship Service  
Livestream Available  
9:45am Mission & Vision Joint Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service

### Monday, January 22

### Tuesday, January 23

- 7:30pm Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, January 24

- 9:00am Mom's Bible Study

### Thursday, January 25

- 5:30pm Youth Movie Night

### Friday, January 26

- 6:30pm RCA ArtMake Pottery Workshop

### Saturday, January 27

- 8:30am Men's Basketball

### Sunday, January 28

- 8:00am Worship Service  
Livestream Available  
9:45am Mission & Vision Joint Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service  
5:30pm Rooted Returns

## COMING UP

- Jan 25: Youth Movie Night  
Jan 26: RCA ArtMake-Pottery Workshop  
Jan 28: Rooted Returns  
Jan 30: GriefShare Begins  
Jan 31: Upside Down & Crossroads Return  
Jan 31: Faith & Finances-Hope Exchange  
Community Group Begins  
Feb 1: High School Girls Small Group Begins  
Feb 3: The Redeemer's Ball  
Feb 4: Anniversary Reception  
Feb 4: 19th Anniversary Service  
Feb 10: Second Saturday Serve  
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 Greer, Assistant Youth Director  
Jermaine Van Buren, Jr., Intern, Youth Ministry Asst  
Gabriel Garcia, Intern  
Daniel Covert, Intern  
Felecia Marshall, Business Administrator  
Corrie Keplinger, 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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