



REDEEMER CHURCH

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—April 21, 2024
“A Severe Case of Homesickness!”
—Genesis 31

Reflection Quote

“The Christian says, ‘Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Humans feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others to do the same.’” - CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

* Call to Worship

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Rev. Zack Owens
Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Rev Zack Owens

Assurance of Pardon

Colossians 2:13-14

Rev. Zack Owens

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

* 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**

"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"

Let us love and sing and wonder, Let us praise the Savior's Name.
He has hushed the law's loud thunder, He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame.
He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood, He has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord Who bought us, Pitied us when enemies,
Called us by His grace and taught us, Gave us ears and gave us eyes.
He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood, He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing though fierce temptation, Threatens hard to bear us down.
For the Lord our strong salvation, Holds in view the conqueror's crown.
He who washed us with His blood, He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood, Soon will bring us home to God.

Covenant Baptism

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Beckett Don Drake, Covenant Child of Luke and Katie Drake (8:00am)

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.

Children's Church (Ages 4-5) 8:00am only

Commandment 6: You shall not murder.

Parents: After worship in giving, you are welcome to send your child (4-5) to children's church before the end of special music.

Special Music

"What a Day That Will Be"

Mr. Arthur Phillips

Leader: There is coming a day when no heartaches shall come
No more clouds in the sky, no more tears to dim the eye.
All is peace forevermore on that happy golden shore,
What a day, glorious day that will be.

Congregation: What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon His face, The One who saved me by His grace;
When He takes me by the hand and leads me through the Promised Land,
What a day, glorious day that will be.

Leader: There'll be no sorrow there, no more burdens to bear,
No more sickness, no pain, no more parting over there;
And forever I will be with the One who died for me,
What a day, glorious day that will be.

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Sermon Text

Genesis 31
Pew Bible p. 25

Sermon Title

A Severe Case of Homesickness!

***Hymn of Faith**

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks"

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.

All oer those wide extended plains, shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns, and scatters night away.

Chorus: I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound) I am bound for promised land,
I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound) I am bound for promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath, can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more. (Chorus)

*** Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

*** Departing Song**

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks"

When shall I reach that happy place, and be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face, and in His bosom rest? (Chorus)

Prayer Intercessor Team

Mr. Gene Dent/Mrs. Betty Marsha Dent (8:00am)
Mr. Gene Dent/Mrs. Betty Marsha Dent (11:00am)

***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 Acts 2:39; Acts 16:31; Gen 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 (Rom 8:2).

¹Taken from notes in the Reformation Study Bible

²Paper on covenant baptism by Dr. Bryan Chappell

SERMON NOTES

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—April 21, 2024

“A Severe Case of Homesickness”

—Genesis 31

SERMON QUESTIONS

- What impacted you most during the reading and preaching of God's word? What was the most challenging?
- Have you ever suffered from homesickness? When? What was that like? Could earthly homesickness be an indicator of our eternal homesickness?
- What evidence does this text provide of Jacob's homesickness? Did you find it ironic that Rachel and Leah have never been to Jacob's land, yet also want to go?
- Jacob seems to forget that God never intended him to dwell in Haran for as long as he did. How long did Rebekah intend for him to stay (see Gen.27:44)? Robert Alter writes, "The typical bride price was 30 shekels." Do you remember Jacob's outlandish offer for Rachel? Could it be that when he saw her and gained initial favor with Laban, he thought Haran was his home?
- Have you ever, like Jacob, become so comfortable here that you lose sight of your true home? God often rids us of that delusion through the "Labans" in our own lives, bitter providences, or gentle reminders from His word. When was the last time he did that to you?
- Isn't it good to know that God will free us from the allure of the world AND safely bring us to our true home? What does God do, in Genesis 31, to free Jacob and to set him on a safe passage home? How has Jesus done this for us?
- Read Hebrews 11:8-16. By faith, the saints of old longed for the city whose builder and maker was God. The land of Canaan points us to the coming place where God, as in Eden, will dwell again with his people. There will be no sin, sorrow, sadness, war, death, deceit, injustice, division, poverty, loneliness or any other things caused by sin. What excites you most about Jesus' eventual return? Is it safe to say that your homesickness will be eternally quenched?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday

Connect Pad: Please find the Connect Pad on your pew and sign in. This helps us keep track of Members and Visitors alike.



More Information:

On the QR Code you'll find links to announcements and online giving.

***** PRAYER REQUESTS/UPDATES *****

- Tu & Caroline Combs: Ongoing health issues for Caroline.
- Katie Trotter: Healing of breast and bone cancer. See QR Code for Take Them a Meal.
- 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.

BIRTHS

- Samuel Clark Davidson, 4-09-2024, son of Samuel & Emily Davidson. See QR Code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for their meal plan.

***** SEEKING TO SERVE *****

Volunteers Needed for Summer Nursery Sunday School

We are in need of at least six volunteers to lead Sunday school classes in the nursery for the summer months. Teachers will facilitate a pre prepared lesson and help to shepherd some of the littlest of our flock. If you're interested in joining the rotation, contact Velma Warner at vwarner@redeemerjackson.com for more information.

Volunteers Needed for Summer Children's Church

While spring children's church concludes on May 5, we would love to continue through the summer months. In order for this to happen, we will need four lead teachers and sixteen assistants to shepherd and serve our upcoming class of four year olds! Can you serve? Email Jajuan McNeil at mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com for more information and to sign up.

Join Team Redeemer for CPC Life Walk, May 4

The CPC Life Walk will be May 4 from 8:00-11:00am at Trustmark Park. Join us with a team of friends to represent the unborn in our state and community. For more information on joining Redeemer's team as a walker, email Al Arnold at alarnold03@att.net or Tamiko Arnold at tjarnold6@gmail.com. Our team is Redeemer Presbyterian Church-Jackson, MS. See QR Code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information and to sign up.

***** CALLED TO CONNECT *****

Youth Senior Night, Apr 24

Congratulations to our 2024 graduates! All 6th-12th grade students are invited to our potluck dinner to wrap up the semester and celebrate our seniors. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30-7:00pm. See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information.

Redeemer Women's Meet & Greet, Apr 27

Redeemer adult women young, old and in between, join us on Sat Apr 27, from 1:00-3:00pm in the Youth Room! Titus 2:3 & 4 says, "older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior. They are to teach young women to be self controlled, pure, kind." Perhaps you will begin a new relationship! Light refreshments will be served. No childcare available. See QR code or redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday for more information and to sign up.

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

Graduate Recognition

The Redeemer family would like to acknowledge all those graduating from high school, college, or post-graduate work in our membership. If you or someone you know is graduating this year, please email the church office at: office@redeemerjackson.com.

Now Accepting Applications for the Director of Music Ministry

Our search is underway for a Director of Music Ministry. This is a salaried, part-time position (targeting 25-30 hours/week) with potential to grow into full-time role. We are accepting applications through May 15. Know someone who might be interested? See the QR code for all the information about the Director of Music Ministry position and search process.

SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 - 10:35am

Adult Sunday School Block Two

Mar 31-May 12

Intimacy With God in The Psalms: Sanctuary

Teacher: Brian Gault

There are times when intimacy with God feels like chasing the wind. Intimacy is found at the intersection of longing and belonging, transparency and acceptance, abiding and beholding. In the Psalms, God takes the words of his saints and they become the word of God as a path to bring our whole self before him. The Psalms are full of raw honesty, overwhelming grief, and incomprehensible joy—all tools for the loving father to woo us into his presence. He says, “Bring your whole self. I want all of you.”

Brokenness and heartache, doubt and confidence, and anger and exaltation are all welcome in God’s presence. And as we walk the well-worn words of saints who have gone before, the path will emerge to bring our whole selves before the face of God. And that’s where intimacy begins.

Befriend: Creating Belonging in a Lonely & Isolated World: Fellowship Hall

Teachers: Karl Arndt, Grant Callen, Scott Marshall, Kelle Menogan, Zack Owens, William Stackler, Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

Sometimes we find in seasons of life that busyness and social media have left a void of deep, intentional friendship. What ever happened to connection and belonging? Where can I know others and be known?

Using Scott Sauls’ book, *Befriend*, this class will make a case for building friendships that go beyond a digital, transactional, or one-dimensional nature and turn into relationships that are vulnerable, transparent, loving, and loyal. Sauls creates categories, each with a biblical foundation, for various types of friendship and gives us a different lens to see those we encounter day by day. He encourages us to befriend “the One in the Mirror,” “the ‘Other,’” “True Friends and Significant Others,” “the Poor and Empty-Handed,” “the Rich and Powerful,” and so many more. The end result is a paradigm for friendship that challenges us to love others the way Jesus did.

Redeemer Explored: Room 109

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Barry McCay

Would you like to know more about Redeemer Church? Are you interested in becoming a member? If so, you need to take this class. Pastor Elbert McGowan, along with the elders, will teach this 7-week introductory course on the ins and outs of Redeemer Church and how you can get involved. If you are ready to join Redeemer or have further questions, you will have the opportunity to meet with an elder at the end of the class (May 19 & 26).

SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 - 10:35am

Spring Youth Sunday School

Mar 31-May 12

Middle School, *Worship at Redeemer*: Youth Room

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

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 re-visit 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

K4-1st 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

***** Redeemer Kids *****

K4-5th Grade

Apr 21: Children's Church (Ages 4-6, 8:00am only)

May 30-June 1: Kids With a Mission

June 24-27: VBS

***** Redeemer Youth *****

6th-12th Grade

Apr 24: Senior Night Potluck

THIS WEEK

Deacon on Call for the Week Apr 21

Jon Fults, 601.212.3327

Sunday, Apr 21

Baptism

8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship Service

Monday, April 22

Tuesday, April 23

6:00pm GriefShare

7:30pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, April 24

9:00am Mom's Bible Study

5:30pm Youth Senior Night

6:00pm Hope Exchange Community
Group

Thursday, April 25

12:00pm Women's Bible Study

Friday, April 26

Saturday, April 27

8:30am Men's Basketball

1:00pm Women's Meet & Greet

Sunday, April 28

Children & Youth Sunday

8:00am Worship Service
Livestream Available

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship Service

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, Ministry Assistant

Daniel Covert, Ministry Assistant

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

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

Jeremy Smith

Ellis Tucker

Johnston Walker

Thomas Wallace

Tamarco White

COMING UP:

May 4: Team Redeemer for CPC Life Walk

May 6: Session Meeting

May 13: Diaconate Meeting

May 19: Joint SS-Year in Review & Budget
Update

May 22: Wednesday Fellowship Potluck

May 30-June 1: Kids With a Mission

June 24-27: VBS

redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday

