

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

DECEMBER 16, 2018
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PRELUDE *See Amid the Winter's Snow* arr. Wagner
Jennifer Blackburn

WELCOME; INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS MISSION OPPORTUNITIES Martin Lifer

*INTROIT (11:00 – Chancel Choir, Jim Beaty directing)

*CALL TO WORSHIP Downey Family (8:30); Fair Family (11:00)
LIGHTING THE CANDLE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
INVOCATION AND PRAISE

*HYMN 188 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

GOD'S WORD FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Kirk Kinard (11:00)

*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH - The Apostles' Creed Ben Jackson
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN 670 THE GLORIA PATRI

*ADVENT ANTHEM (11:00 – Chancel Choir) *Grant Us Peace*

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION & PETITION; THE LORD'S PRAYER Ben Jackson
(Unison Prayer) Father, please forgive us our sin and bring us to true repentance and renewal. O Lord, by the power of Your Spirit, make our hearts bold in faith and loving enough truly to care about the souls and eternity of family, friends, and neighbors. May we freely and clearly share your Good News and invite others to come with us to your House and Communion this season and in the New Year.

And so we ask for your Kingdom and will – as you teach us to pray:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS

GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S GRACE

* RESPONSIVE HYMN 668 - THE DOXOLOGY

*GIVING - GOD'S TITHE, OUR 2019 BLESSED TO BLESS STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES,
AND THE CHRISTMAS MISSION BLESSINGS OFFERING+

*PRAYER OF THANKS AND DEDICATION

OFFERTORY *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* arr. McDonald
Jennifer Blackburn

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

Having trouble hearing the service? Please see an usher about using one of We have portable units that are connected directly to our sound system for optimum audio.

Deacon of the Week: Joel Downey (8:30), Jason Ryder (11:00)

Today's Ushers: (8:30) – George Vemer; (11:00) – Will Martin, John Cade

Today's Greeters: (8:30) – Jane Vemer; (11:00) – Amy Crawford, Scotty Crawford

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE Genesis 49:10; Luke 2:1-5; Revelation 5:4-7
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 42, 857, 1030-1031)

SERMON **His Story: In Time,
On Time, ...Out of Time** Martin Lifer

INVITATION TO FAITH AND TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN CHRIST

*HYMN 96 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* FAITHFULNESS

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *God Be With You Until We Meet Again*

POSTLUDE *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* arr. Leatherman
Jennifer Blackburn

Visiting with Us?

We warmly welcome you to our worship of God this Lord's Day.

Please complete a **FIRSTConnect Card** and place it in the Offering ... or in a **FIRSTConnect Box** in the entranceways.

We hope you can be back in worship with us on upcoming Sundays and also connect with other study and fellowship opportunities at FPC.

To learn more about faith in Jesus Christ, as well as about church membership, your spiritual growth, and ways to learn & serve at FPC – please speak to Pastor Lifer following the service, or call him this week at the church office. You may also send a message to him via email (mwlfifer3@gmail.com).

DECEMBER SUNDAY & CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday, December 23 – Two Worship Services (8:30, 11:00 a.m.)

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall)

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24

*One Candlelight Communion Service, *5:00 p.m.

Childcare available

Sunday, December 31, 2018 – Two Worship Services (8:30, 11:00 a.m.)

8:30 a.m. Christmas Worship Service

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall)

11:00 a.m. Christmas Worship Service

+The Christmas Mission Blessings Special Offering+

This year's Christmas Missions Blessings Offering will be directed to provide additional FPC year-end support (co-equally) to the following missions and missionaries: **Starkville Habitat for Humanity; The Father's Child Ministries; French Camp Academy and the Rising Son Camp;** the **Palmer Home for Children Mission;** as well as two "Children of the Church" working overseas – **Aretta Zitta** (Director of Young Life/Club Beyond Ministry to children living on US military bases and housing in Europe and parts of the Middle East) and **Chip Bobbitt.** *Today and throughout December, feel free to give – above and separately from your regular tithe and offerings – to this special offering. Checks should be made to FPC Starkville, but please designate in the check's Memo line "Christmas Blessings Mission Offering" or simply "Christmas Blessings."*

KEY SERMON & SCRIPTURE NOTES

His Story: *In Time, On Time, ... and Out of Time*

Preface: Out of Time

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

In the beginning was the Word; and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1
And his name shall be called ... "Everlasting Father, ..." Isaiah 9:6d

Jesus said to them, "Amen, Amen, I say to you: Before Abraham was, I AM." John 8:58

(1) In Time

When was Jesus born? In History!

In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. Luke 1:5

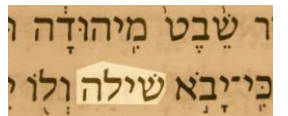
In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Luke 2:1-2

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod [i.e. Herod Antipas] being tetrarch of the region of Galilee, and his brother Philipp...during the high priesthood Luke 3:1

When were YOU born again in His Story?

(2) On Time: Perfect Timing

The scepter shall not depart from Judah... until SHILOH comes, and to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples. Genesis 49:10



Shiloh

But when the fullness of time had come [NIV – when the set time had fully come], God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,... Galatians 4:4

God is never early or late; He's always RIGHT ON TIME.

Trust God and his perfect timing.

They who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength. Isaiah 40:31

(3) Out of Time: HIS Story Is Eternal

"Weep no more! Behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals." Revelation 5:5b

When we are out of time here ("the end of the age"), will you be with Him "out of time?"

"Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom You have sent." John 17:3

Week of December 16, 2018

SUNDAY:	8:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
MONDAY:	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts (Boy Scouts Building)
	8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous, also on T, W, & F (Ed. Bldg)
TUESDAY:	7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Parlor)
	5:15 p.m.	Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00 p.m.	Casserole Kitchen (Fellowship Hall)
WEDNESDAY:	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Practice
THURSDAY:	6:00 p.m.	Casserole Kitchen (Fellowship Hall)
SATURDAY:	12:00 pm	Casserole Kitchen (Episcopal Church)
	6:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous (Christian Education Bldg.)

CASSEROLE KITCHEN MISSION MEAL HOSTS AT FPC THIS WEEK
 December 18 – Paula Ivey December 20 – Bob Boyd

Prayer List

Charles Atkinson
 Janet, Gary, and Jay Bardwell
 Marjorie Malone
 Paula Elliott
 Allison Jackson
 Robert McDavid
 Ross Collins
 Gerlene Lifer
 Ashleigh Murdock and Hawkins Murdock
 Cindy Stewart (friend of Jane Vemer)
 Thomas Guest (grandson of Charlie & Rubye Guest).
 Frances Knoll Waltman and Cissy Knoll Thomas (Libby Gill's sister and mother)
 Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware
 Michael Tubb – Anna Ray Gassaway's nephew
 Dan Ryder (Jason Ryder's father)
 David Skinner (Kyle Skinner's father)
 Billy and Brenda Harrington
 Jane Zitta
 Frances Ellis and Brett Horton (Ellen Mauldin's sister and her brother Leslie's grandson)
 Diane Daniels, her sister, Delores Irvin, and Sarah Helen McCloskey and Craig D. Campbell (family friends of Bob & Diane Daniels)
 Marie Tubb and John Gassaway (Anna Ray Gassaway's sister-in-law & brother-in-law)
 Brenda Pratt, Cheryl Kay Linder (Beth Ann Dunlap's stepmother & sister)
 Carl Ivey, Sr. (Dukedom, Kentucky); Anderson Ivey (Carl and Paula Ivey's grandson in Birmingham); and Traci Hardin (wife of a manager of the Iveys' Village Center Cycle)
 David Sanders (Friend of Loren Zimmerman)

Additional Prayer List for Health Care / Assisted Living

Bessie Montgomery – Montgomery Gardens
 Louise Haddigan – The Claiborne
 Cattie Taylor – Beehive, Starkville
 Thelma Gentry – Vicker's Personal Care Home
 Jane Lusk – The Claiborne
 Jetta Kuykendall – The Grove, Columbia
 Frances Oakley – Sunnybrook Estates, Madison
 Marie Tramel – Plain View, Richland
 Maxine Eastland – Franklin, TN
 Elizabeth Duffey – Presbyterian Village, GA
 Jewel Jacobs (Cindy Walker's mother) – Montgomery Garden
 Lu Graham (Jane Zitta's sister) – The Hermitage, Richmond, Virginia

Please pray for our Officers and Officers-Elect as they serve the Lord's Ministry through FPC. Please ask an usher if you'd like a handout with a list of current and newly elected Officers and for further information on Leadership and Ministries at FPC.

The poinsettias are provided today and throughout this month by the generous support of the Givers mentioned in today's Poinsettia Gifts 2018 bulletin insert. All Givers to the Poinsettia Support Fund have thereby also provided mission support to the Palmer Home for Children. Please see the insert for special thanks to the Givers, the persons for whom the Givers have dedicated their gifts *in honorarium* or *in memoriam* – with all gifts being ultimately to the glory of God.



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FPC/EPC Women's Ministry

Janice Kinard, Moderator

Circle Meetings & Leaders

12/17/2018, Monday evening: Members check with Leader: Amy Weiskopf

Mission : * no financial offering given at circle. Women of the church will join the congregation to support local charities – FPC Angel Tree, Adopt a Child, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Christmas Cantata etc.

Lesson: Each circle will enjoy their time together and the Advent season.

MISSION HELP NEEDED



BE AN ANGEL THIS CHRISTMAS! Buy gifts for our FPC Child Care Center workers' dependent children. **Tags with suggested gifts and sizes are on the Angel Christmas Tree in the Fellowship Hall.** Please take one or more of these tags from the tree, buy and wrap the gifts, and then bring the wrapped gifts (tags attached) to the church office **by Wednesday, December 19.**

Help us Ring the Red Kettle Christmas Bell to Raise Funds for the Salvation Army Mission Campaign!

FPC has committed to "Ring the Bell" outside the Starkville Kroger Pharmacy entrance **Saturday, December 22** (noon-7 pm) **Please – individually or with family members or friends – sign up for open one-hour slots** on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, or **sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/FPC-2018-Red-Kettle>** Please call Joel Downey if you have questions.



Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24

One Candlelight Communion Service

5:00 p.m.

Childcare available



Starkville's Church

That is Part of the EPC –

A Global Movement of Evangelical Christians – and that Preaches the Doctrines of Grace



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 16, 2018

Worship Service | 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School | 9:45 a.m.

Fellowship Gathering | 10:30 a.m.

Worship Service | 11:00 a.m.

Visit Our Website for Sermon Podcasts & Ministry News

www.fpcstarkville.org

Church Office

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Office Hours

Mon. - Friday: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m. & 1:00-4:30 p.m.