

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

DECEMBER 23, 2018  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PRELUDE *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Southbridge  
Jennifer Blackburn

WELCOME Martin Lifer

\*INTROIT (11:00 – Chancel Choir, Dr. Craig Aarhus directing) *Sing We Now of Christmas*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Foster Family (8:30)  
Rebecca, Simon Floyd, and Davis Wade Banzhaf (11:00)

LIGHTING THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY ADVENT CANDLE; INVOCATION

\*HYMN 205 (vv. 1,3) *Away in a Manger* MUELLER

GOD'S GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Ashleigh Murdock (11:00)

\*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH - The Apostles' Creed

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

\*ANTHEM (11:00 – Chancel Choir) *Love Came Down* Joel Raney

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION & PETITION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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, STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES, AND FURTHER OFFERINGS

\*PRAYER OF THANKS AND DEDICATION

OFFERTORY *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Keveren  
Jennifer Blackburn

\*The congregation is invited to stand.

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

Deacon of the Week: Jeremy Murdock

Today's Ushers: (8:30) – Janice Kinard; (11:00) – Will Martin, Edward Kemp

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

*“Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.” [1 Corinthians 11:28-29]*

Preparing to Receive the Lord's Supper on Christmas Eve: We will invite all baptized and affirming disciples currently active in an evangelical church and approved in that church communion as spiritually prepared to discern and partake of the Body to share in the Lord's Supper in tomorrow evening's service. Faithful preparation for Holy Communion includes repentance, through reconciliation to God and to others (particularly fellow believers from whom you may have become estranged), and through trusting in God's grace in all things.

## GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE 1 John 4:8-10; John 14:4-6; Revelation 22:17  
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 1023, 901, 1042)

SERMON **Love Came Down:**  
*Good News, Bad News, Good News!* Martin Lifer

INVITATION TO FAITH AND TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN CHRIST

\*HYMN 172 (vv. 1,4) *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* BEECHER

\*BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE *Masters In This Hall* arr. Hayes  
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.

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).

We also hope you will plan to be guests of Pastor and Nancy Lifer, together with other FPC members, for our

### FIRST CONNECT Lunch & Learn Fellowship

Sunday, February 3, 2019, 12:10-1:15, p.m.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about becoming part of our church family and ministries. We can provide childcare and lunch for younger children whose parents attending. Please simply let Pastor Lifer, Nancy, or the Church Office know the ages and needs of any young children joining us for FIRSTConnect.

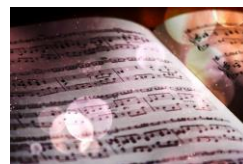
### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve – Tomorrow, December 24

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

Sunday, December 30 –

The First Sunday in the 12 Days of Christmas!



Two Christmas Sunday 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

Join us today for: **BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR JESUS!**



FELLOWSHIP GATHERING (10:30- 10:50 a.m., Fellowship Hall)

## KEY SERMON & SCRIPTURE NOTES

**Love Came Down:**  
*Good News, Bad News, Good News!*

(1) *Good News: LOVE*

God IS Love. 1 John 4:8b

*... came down.*

In this the love of God was made manifest among us:  
that God sent his only Son into the world,  
so that we might live through Him. 1 John 4:9

For God so loved the world... that He gave his only Son... John 3:16a

(2) *Bad News: We Did Not Love God, but Are OR Were Perishing in Sin.*

*... not that we have loved God,...* 1 John 4:10 b

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the Truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8

We cannot make our way, work our way, buy our way, or “love” our way to the Father.

[Jesus said] **“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** John 14:6b

(3) *Good News: HE Came Down to Pay the Price for Our Sin and so that – through Believing in Him – We Can Live in Him (in LOVE) forever.*

In this is love: *not that we have loved God,*  
but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10

But God shows his love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Revelation 22:17b

Come, Almighty God, Holy Love, Gracious Jesus!  
Please come down to me.  
Save me from my sin and let me believe in You, love You, and live in You.

## Week of December 23, 2018

<b>SUNDAY:</b>	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
<b>MONDAY:</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>	
	8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous, also on T, W, & F (Ed. Bldg)
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>	
		No Casserole Kitchen
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Practice
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	6:00 p.m.	Casserole Kitchen (Fellowship Hall)
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	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 25 – No Casserole Kitchen      December 27 – Bob Boyd

Please join us as we continue to extend our condolences to – and our prayers for God's comfort to – the Fandel family, following the recent death of Catherine's grandmother, Bobbye Sojourner.

### 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  
Bobby Fleming (brother of Gloria Cade)  
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  
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. **Ask an usher if you'd like a list of current and newly elected Officers and for further information on Leadership and Ministries at FPC.**

The poinsettias are provided 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's 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.

**TEJERAS MEAL SPONSORS** (Mission meal for children in Tejerias, Honduras)  
December 26, 28 – By members of the congregation for the Glory of God.

### Coming up in the New Year!!

#### Women - Join Nancy Lifer and the Women in the Word Sunday School

**Class** (meeting **each Sunday, 9:45-10:30 a.m.**, in the Sanctuary Bldg. Room S-6, on the main floor of the Sanctuary Building, around the corner and down the hallway from the Choir Loft and Chapel) *for the following:*



- **Sunday, January 6** – an **Open House/Fellowship Brunch** from 9:45 through 10:30 a.m.
- **Then each Sunday morning, beginning January 13**, for a new study on the Book of James – **Faith: A Bible Study on James for Women**, by Keri Fulmar

#### For Visitors Interested in Learning More About FPC

##### and Becoming Involved at FPC –

##### **FIRST CONNECT Lunch & Learn Fellowship**

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**This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about becoming part of our church family and ministries.**

*We can provide childcare and lunch food for younger children whose parents want to attend. Please simply let Pastor Lifer, Nancy, or the Church Office know that you are coming and the ages and needs of any young children joining us.*

#### Men - Save the Date! –

**Men's Ministry Retreat – Friday and Saturday, February 1-2, 2019**

### **Christmas Eve Worship Tomorrow Night:**

**\*One Candlelight Communion Service\***

**5:00 p.m.**

Childcare available



**Starkville's Church**

**That Preaches the *Doctrines of Grace***

**and**

**That is Part of the EPC –**

***A Global Movement of Evangelical Christians.***



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 23, 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](http://www.fpcstarkville.org)**

**Church Office**

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**Phone | 662-323-1994**

**Fax | 662-323-1999**

**Office Hours**

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