

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

DECEMBER 30, 2018  
FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMASTIDE

PRELUDE *Christmas Joy* arr. McDonald  
Jennifer Blackburn, piano

WELCOME Martin Lifer

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Bob and Priscilla Boyd (8:30)  
The Cal and Laura Rackley Family (11:00)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE; INVOCATION

\*HYMN 187 *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* WALTHAM

GOD'S GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Martin Lifer

\*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH *from the (Westminster) Shorter Catechism*  
Pastor: Who is the redeemer of God's chosen?

ALL: The only redeemer of God's chosen is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, Who became human. He was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures and One Person forever.

\*HYMN 670 THE GLORIA PATRI

\*ANTHEM (11:00 – Chancel Choir) *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* Smart/Montgomery

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 *One Small Child* arr. Hayes  
Jennifer Blackburn, piano

*\*The congregation is invited to stand.*

### +Commit in Faith to God for 2019

We are so thankful for the many FPC members who have responded with strong Stewardship commitments for 2019. This helps us plan for everything from ensuring that you are connected with ministry groups to ensuring good stewardship in the church's budget planning.

If you have not already sent in your 2019 Worship, Giving or Ministry pledges, you may find blank cards at the 2019 Stewardship boxes located around the church. Thank you for your commitment to the Lord and His 2019 mission through FPC.

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: Tabor Mullen

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

Today's Greeters: (8:30) – Janice Kinard; (11:00) – Meredith Martin

## GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 7:6-8; Exodus 19:3-6; and 1 Peter 2:9  
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 152, 60, 1015)

SERMON *Treasured (Part 1)* Martin Lifer

INVITATION TO FAITH AND TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN CHRIST

\*HYMN 203 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* CHRISTMAS

\*BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* arr. Sprunger  
Jennifer Blackburn, piano

### 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 (mwlifer3@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 for all currently visiting FPC 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.

### Upcoming Events for FPC Officers in the First 3 Sundays of 2019

January 6, 12:30 pm – Called Session Meeting to Examine Officers-Elect

January 13, 11:00 am – New Officers Ordained and Installed in Worship

January 20, 12:30 pm – Stated Officer Meetings

### Please Volunteer to Be an Usher or Greeter. HELP Needed!

Our current schedule for Ushers and Greeters ends today. We need volunteers to help with ushering and greeting – beginning NEXT Sunday and continuing in 2019! Please access our "Signup Genius" webpage to sign up for Sundays through the first half of 2019 or call Rita at the church office 662-323-1994.

Sign up for the 8:30 a.m. Service: <https://tinyurl.com/FPC-830am-U-G-Jan-Jun-2019>

Sign up for the 11:00 a.m. Service: <https://tinyurl.com/FPC-11am-U-G-Jan-Jun-2019>

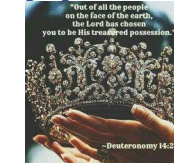
## KEY SERMON & SCRIPTURE NOTES

### Treasured (Part 1)

- (1) The LORD *chose* Abraham AND *chose* Israel – Abraham's seed through Jacob – *to be, among and out of all peoples and nations:*
- set apart (i.e. HOLY) for the LORD and to the LORD, as
  - the LORD's special, peculiar TREASURED POSSESSION among all people, as
  - the LORD's own kingdom of priests and holy nation.

Deuteronomy 7:6 [Also: Deuteronomy 14:2 & 26:18-19]

"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth."



Exodus 19:4-6 "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

(2) The LORD chose Israel *NOT* because Israel was best or special in Israel's own right; He chose Israel "simply because the LORD loves you and is keeping the covenant-oath he swore to your forefathers." Deuteronomy 7:7-8 [Also: Deuteronomy 9:6]

(3) God chooses *all* Christians, all he raises born again to new life (Ephesians 1:4, 1 Peter 1:2, etc.) – as children of Abraham by faith (Galatians 3:7, etc.) – to be

- set apart (i.e. HOLY) for the LORD and to the LORD, as
- the LORD's special, peculiar TREASURED POSSESSION among all people, as
- the LORD's own kingdom of priests and holy nation

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, ...

(4) He did NOT choose you, Christian, because you were better, more beautiful or brilliant.

... He chose you *totally out of love alone, by grace alone.*

(5) The Lord treasures and sets apart his chosen. He will NOT lose his true treasured possession. He will do all necessary to save/redeem/recover his treasured. [Luke 15, etc.]

(6) Are you *in Christ*? Then you are Chosen & Treasured forever! *Believe It!*

(7) ... And *Live It!*...

*together & set apart, his kingdom of priests!* We are the Lord's Treasured people!



BE Treasured and BE Transformed! Romans 12:2

## Week of December 30, 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

January 1 – No Casserole Kitchen      January 3 – Billy Harrington

### Prayer List

Chares Atkinson  
Loise Haddigan  
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.  
**Please feel free to take home a poinsettia TODAY.**

### Help Take Down, Care for, and Store Our Church Christmas Decorations Thursday Morning!

All willing and available volunteers: Please join Wanda Anthony and her team of helpers in this Thursday, January 3, beginning in the Sanctuary at 8:30 am.

## Coming up in the New Year!!

### Women - 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)  
Cordially invite you to join them *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

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 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**

### FPC Women's Ministry – Janice Kinard, Moderator

Coordinating Team: **Tuesday, January 8 at noon**, Church Office, Major Johnson Room  
Mission for January: FPC Children's Ministry, Ashleigh Murdock

#### Circles, Meeting Places, and Leaders

Circles meet 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month (7:00 pm Circle meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

Lesson: Week Two – Joshua and the Promised Land

Circles meetings & Leaders

01/13/19, Sunday morning @ 8 am, @ FPC Parlor ; Leader: Lynda Forbus,

01/14/19, Monday afternoon @ 1:30 pm @ FPC Parlor: Leader: Sara Wilson

01/15/19, Tuesday evening: @ 6 pm @ home of TBA; Leader: Vivian Cade

01/21/19, Monday evening @ 7 pm @ home of Amy Weiskopf; Leader: Amy Weiskopf



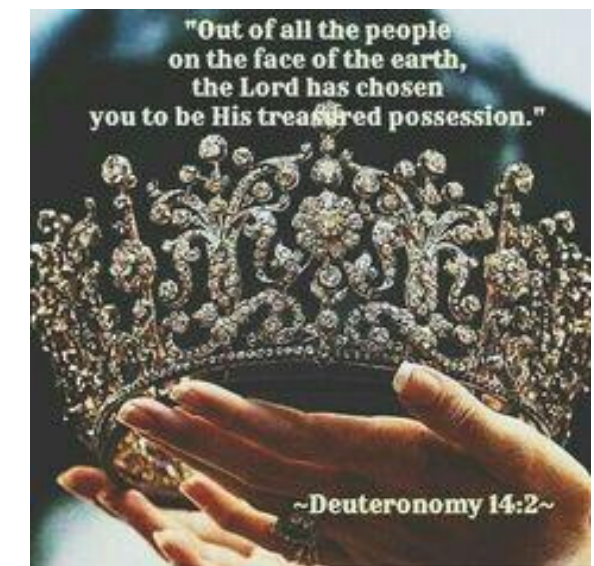
Starkville's Church

That Preaches the *Doctrines of Grace*

and

That is Part of the EPC –

*A Global Movement of Evangelical Christians.*



**FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMASTIDE**

**DECEMBER 30, 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

307 University Drive, Starkville, Mississippi 39759

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.**