

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

JANUARY 6, 2019
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

PRELUDE *When Morning Stars Sang Together* Clarke
Jennifer Blackburn, organ

WELCOME Martin Lifer

*INTROIT (11:00 – Chancel Choir)

*CALL TO WORSHIP FOR EPIPHANY SUNDAY from Matthew 2:1-2 Ben Jackson
Minister: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying:
ALL: “Where is He Who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose, and we have come to worship Him.”

*INVOCATION

*HYMN 193 *As with Gladness Men of Old* DIX

GOD'S GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Martin Lifer (8:30); Ashleigh Murdock (11:00)

*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH from The (Westminster) Larger Catechism Ben Jackson
Minister: What is the primary and highest purpose of man?
ALL: **Our primary and highest purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him completely forever.**

*HYMN 670 THE GLORIA PATRI

*ANTHEM (11:00 – Chancel Choir) *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION & PETITION Martin Lifer

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.*

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.

+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.

Members: 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.

Deacon of the Week: Johnny Fair

Today's Ushers: (8:30) – Bob Boyd; (11:00) – Wallace Cade, Loren Zimmerman

Today's Greeters: (8:30) – Priscilla Boyd; (11:00) – Gloria Cade, Janice Kinard

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE Psalm 29:1-2, 9-11; Matthew 2:7-12
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 461, 807-8)

SERMON **Treasured (Part 2): First, Worship!**
Wise and Wonderful Worship of the King Martin Lifer

INVITATION TO FAITH AND TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN CHRIST

*HYMN 365 *Song for the Nations* SONG FOR THE NATIONS

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Amen* TRADITIONAL

POSTLUDE *Jesus Shall Reign* arr. Berry
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 (mwlfir3@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.

First Worship - Help Needed!

Please Volunteer to Be an Usher or Greeter on One or More Sundays.

Please access our “Signup Genius” webpage to sign up,
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>

Fresh Flowers for the Sanctuary



If you would like to provide flowers for our Sanctuary for Lord's Day worship, please call Rita Usher in the church office for details and/or to reserve a date. You may provide one or two arrangements or contribute smaller amounts to a flower fund.

Make Your Reservations for Friends & Family Fellowship Dinner

Friends and Family Dinners and Studies begin

NEXT Wednesday, January 16, 5:15-5:45 p.m.

NEXT Wednesday's Dinner: Shepherd's Pie, Black Eye Peas, Corn Nuggets, Rolls, Dessert. Adults may also choose a Chef Salad, ... or as always, children may have pizza – just let us know. Please complete your reservation card and place it in the Offering today, or call or send an email to the Church Office. **NOTE: We are using a new caterer. All reservations for January 16 must be turned in by Monday, January 14, at NOON!**

TODAY'S KEY SERMON & SCRIPTURE NOTES

Preface: (a) God seeks First-Worshippers and treasures them, ... as they treasure Him.

Jesus said: “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him.” John 4:23

(b) First-Worshippers are ALL IN for God: yielded, obedient and joyful in the Spirit.

“I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.” Acts 13:22

(c) Epiphany: The 1st revelation of Christ to gentiles was the **FIRST Christian WORSHIP.**

(d) A wise person's 1st Resolution/Rule of faith: **First, Worship!**

Glorify and Enjoy God!

(1) First-Worshippers **FIRST seek to WORSHIP Him.**

“Where is He Who has been born king of the Jews? ... we have come to worship Him.” Matt. 2:2

(2) First-Worshippers worship Him for WHO He is: **Glorify God for Himself!**

... ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. Psalm 29:1b-2

(3) First-Worshippers Come Prepared Spiritually with their First & Best in Heart, Soul & Hand.

The Magi came with hearts and hands prepared with their first and best.

(4) First-Worshippers 1st (a) bow/humble themselves and (b) shout “Glory!” to Him.

(a) “Worship the LORD...” Psalm 29:2
הִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה / “Worship” = literally **bow down**.... as in *presenting a gift*.

...and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh. Matt. 2:11b

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.” [C.S. Lewis]

(b) ...in his temple all cry, “Glory!” Psalm 29:9b

“Shout for joy to God/ the LORD!... Psalm 66:1, Psalm 81:1, Psalm 98:4, Psalm 100:1

(5) As First-Worshippers humble themselves & worship Him,...*He lifts us up in peace & joy.*

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you. James 4:10

The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace. Psalm 29:11
Don't Miss: Strength and Peace are *interrelated*.

“God can't give us peace and happiness apart from Himself, because there is no such thing.” [C.S. Lewis]

... Also, wisdom & guidance:

[W]arned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. Matt. 2:12

Week of January 6, 2019

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:	1:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
	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

January 8 – Rebecca Banzhaf January 10 – Ross Collins

Prayer List

Paula and Carl Ivey
Scottie Knight
Chares Atkinson
Louise Haddigan
Janet, Gary, and Jay Bardwell
Marjorie Malone
Paula Elliott
Allison Jackson
Robert McDavid
Ross Collins
Billy and Brenda Harrington
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)
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.**

Enjoy Fellowship & Bible Study Each Sunday Morning!



Visitors and members – *If you are not already in a Sunday Bible Study & Fellowship Group* – join us for one of the following:

Adult Bible Study & Fellowship Groups, meeting every Sunday 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Women in the Word Class

(led by Nancy Lifer – in Room S-6, main Sanctuary Floor)

Cordially invites women to join them *for the following*:

- **TODAY** – Women in the Word Class Open House Fellowship Brunch 9:45 through 10:30 a.m.
- Then **each Sunday morning, beginning next week, January 13**, a new study – ***Faith: A Bible Study on James for Women***, by Keri Fulmar

Crusader Class

(led by Jack Forbus, Ernie George, and other teachers – in the Fellowship Hall)

Faith for Life Class

(Led by Pastor Lifer, for members and guests not already in another class – in the Chapel, behind the Sanctuary Chancel)

Joy Class

(led by Phil Gruchy – in the Parlor, 1st Floor, Sanctuary Bldg.)

New Covenant Class

(led by Jim Beaty – in the Main Room behind Sanctuary Balcony)

Coming Early this New Year:

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 your children.*

Men - Save the Date: **Men's Ministry Weekend Retreat – February 1-2.**

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 **2nd week** of each month (7:00 pm Circle meets 3rd 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.



The 1st Christian worship service
Matthew 2:1-12

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

FIRST LORD'S DAY WORSHIP IN YEAR OF OUR LORD ("A.D.") 2019

JANUARY 6, 2019

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.