

**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Starkville**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 15, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**PRELUDE** *The First Noel* Melody Bober  
*Jesus Loves Me* June C. Montgomery  
 Jack Aarhus (FPC Youth Member)

**WELCOME, SHARING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER, MINISTRY NEWS AND INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS MISSION OPPORTUNITIES** Martin Lifer and Youth Ministry Co-Director Kirk Kinard

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (FPC Youth)  
**LIGHTING THE CANDLE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; INVOCATION**  
**\* ADVENT HYMN 176** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYRFRYDOL

**PRAYERS OF CONFESSION, PETITION, AND INTERCESSION**  
 FPC Youth: O God my Father, I have betrayed You,  
**ALL: I have followed my own ways and the ways of others, instead of following your Way.**  
 FPC Youth: Lord Jesus, I have denied You,  
**ALL: I have denied You by not mentioning Your Name and by not being your witness when it is easier for me to fit in with others and not speak of You as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**  
 FPC Youth: Holy Lord, I am lost in sin.  
**ALL: Please let your forgiveness find me and bring me home; please restore me in your Holy Spirit.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Unison* – led by FPC Youth)  
 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.

**GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S GRACE** Martin Lifer  
**\* RESPONSIVE HYMN 668 - THE DOXOLOGY**

**\*BRINGING GOD'S TITHE, JOYFUL PROMISE 2020 PLEDGES, and Christmas Mission Blessings Special Offering+**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING** Martin Lifer  
**OFFERTORY** *Away in a Manger* arr. McDonald  
 Jennifer Blackburn

**\*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH** from The (Westminster) Larger Catechism (in Modern English) Q. 1  
 FPC Youth: What is the primary and highest purpose of human beings?  
**ALL: The primary and highest purpose of human beings is to glorify God and to enjoy Him completely forever**  
**\*RESPONSIVE HYMN 181** (verses 1 & 4) *Joy to the World! The Lord is Come* ANTIOCH

*\*The congregation is invited to stand.*

**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.

**If you would like to learn more about growing in faith in Jesus Christ, about church membership and/or about ways you can learn and serve at FPC – then please speak to Pastor Lifer or Assistant Pastor Nasytis today, or call the church office. You may also send a message to Pastor Lifer via email ([mwlifer3@gmail.com](mailto:mwlifer3@gmail.com)).**

**+The Christmas Mission Blessings Special Offering+**

**This year's Christmas Mission 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;** the **Palmer Home for Children;** as well as two "Children of the Church" working in ministry 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 Mission Blessings Offering" or simply "Christmas Mission."*

**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 these devices.

**Deacon of the Week:** Robby Holditch  
**Today's Ushers:** George Vemer, Jack Atkins and FPC Youth  
**Today's Greeters:** Jane Vemer and FPC Youth

**The First Presbyterian Church Children's Choir Presents**

**Christmas Is Jesus**

Created by Luke Gambill and Rhonda Frazier

Kathy McGill – Director of Children's Choir

*Carol Medley*

Duet – Edie Kemp & Ann Carlton Holditch; Solo – Elle Lacey

*We Three Kings*

Duet – James Rackley & Finnley Murdock; Solo– Collier Martin

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Solos – Barrett Lewis, Ella Walters; Duet – Carson Mullen & Jet Taylor; Solo– Abigail Wolfe,

*Christmas Is Jesus*

Solo– Cathryn Ryder

*Carol Medley Finale*

Solos –Addison Rackley & Elizabeth Fair

**GOOD NEWS INVITATION** Martin Lifer

**\*HYMN 216** (verse 1) *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* KINGSFOLD

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* arr. Sanborn  
 Jennifer Blackburn

*FPC Children's choir*

Molly Kate Aarhus, Lillian Downey, Lucille Downey, Elizabeth Fair, Kate Fair, Baker Harrelson, Lyla Harrelson, Grace Harrington, Anne Elise Hearnberger, Mary Neel Hearnberger, Mary Gresham Henry, Ann Carlton Holditch, Grace Holditch, Ross Hubbard, Vaughn Hubbard, Edie Kemp, Elle Lacey, Barrett Lewis, Preston Lewis, Collier Martin, Henry Martin, Alli Beth McElmore, Peyton McElmore, Carson Mullen, Finnley Murdock, Hawkins Murdock, Gracey Nasvytis, Sophie Nasvytis, Addison Rackley, Anna Rackley, James Rackley, Madeline Rackley, Cathryn Ryder, James Skinner, Jon Kyle Skinner, Emery Taylor, Jet Taylor, Audrey Walters, Ella Walters, Julia Weiskopf, Abigail Wolfe, Madeline Wolfe

**Join us TODAY, following worship for 11:15 a.m. Breakfast/Brunch Fellowship**

*Our FPC Youth invite you to a Fellowship Brunch Fundraiser following today's worship service, as our Youth seek to raise funds to contribute toward the Christmas Bonus for the teachers and other staff of the FPC Childcare Center.*

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE for CHRISTMAS EVE AND DECEMBER SUNDAYS:**

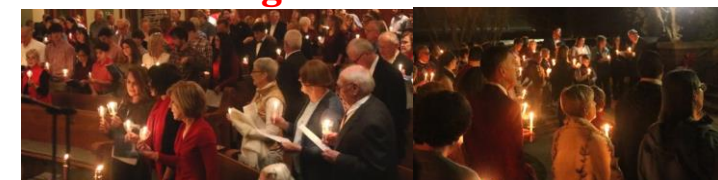
**ADVENT Sunday, December 22 – Two Worship Services (8:30, 11:00 a.m.)**

8:30 a.m. Advent Worship Service  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. **Fellowship Hall Gathering** – with **Birthday Cake for Jesus** (*Thank You to Beverly Jones & Our Fellowship Team!*)



**11:00 a.m. Advent Worship Service**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service – 5:00 p.m.**



Tuesday, Dec. 24, 5:00 p.m. [*Childcare available, beginning 4:45 p.m.*]

**CHRISTMAS Sunday, December 29 – 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**



**TODAY, Dec. 15, 4:30 pm- A Star(k) Filled Christmas**  
FPC Children's & Adult choirs will sing – at Main Street at City Hall Plaza.

**Join Us NEXT SUNDAY, Dec. 22, for our Fellowship Hall Gathering** – which will include a **Birthday Cake for Jesus** (Thank You to **Beverly Jones & Our Fellowship Team!**) ... and singing **"Happy Birthday!"** to Jesus.

### UPCOMING YOUTH MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP:

**THIS Wednesday, Dec. 18, 5:30 p.m. –**  
**Youth Ministry Progressive Dinner**

*We will meet at the youth room to be at the first house by 6:00 p.m.*

**Tuesday, Dec. 31st, 8 p.m. –**  
**FPC Youth Ministry's New Year's Eve Celebration!!!**  
**This Youth Fellowship will be at Robinson Lake (weather permitting).**  
*Come enjoy s'mores, hot chocolate & fireworks, 8-10 p.m.*

Please join our church family in continuing to express condolences to – and to pray seeking **God's comfort for – Emily Ferguson, the Ferguson family, and the Barksdale family, following the death of Emily's father, William (Bill) Barksdale last Sunday, December 8.** While we seek God's comfort for Emily, we also rejoice with Emily, trusting in God's gift of eternal life to all who die in the Lord.

### Prayer List

Boswell Kennard  
Greta Bryan  
Paula Elliott  
Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware  
John Clark Packer  
Jimmie Brown  
Betty Latimer  
Roxene Atkinson  
Randell Foxworth  
Marjorie Malone  
Billy and Brenda Harrington  
William (Bill) Barksdale, Brookhaven, MS (Emily Ferguson's father)  
Mae Glass (Vivien Miller's mother)  
Scott Guest and Thomas Guest (son & grandson of Charlie & Rubye Guest)  
Joe and Carol Mobley  
Sean and Morgan Clark Schnurr & Family  
Bruce Leopold, Danielle Gregory (friend of Bruce Leopold)  
Sylvia Love  
Sherry Siler (BrynTaylor's sister)  
Ross Collins, Madison Collins (son of Ross and Margaret Collins)  
Janet, Gary, and Jay Bardwell  
Cindy Stewart (friend of George and Jane Vemer)  
Aspen Reynolds (Anita Reynolds's granddaughter)  
Teresa Miller (Amy Harrison's mom)  
Carl Ivey, Sr. (Dukedom, Kentucky), Michael Belcher (friend of the Iveys)  
Bob and Dot Forbus, and Staci Moak (brother, sister-in-law, and daughter of Jack Forbus)  
Gerlene Lifer  
Leslie Drane, Frances Ellis (Ellen Mauldin's brother and sister)  
Bobby Fleming (brother of Gloria Cade), and Hazel Davis (Wallace Cade's aunt)  
Diane Daniels, her sister, Delores Irvin, Sarah Helen McCloskey and Craig D. Campbell (family friends of Bob & Diane Daniels)  
John Gassaway and Michael Tubb (Anna Ray Gassaway's brother-in-law and nephew)  
David Henderson, Cheryl Kay Linder (Beth Ann Dunlap's stepbrother & sister)  
Frances Knoll Waltman and Cissy Knoll Thomas (Libby Gill's sister and mother)  
**Additional Prayer List for Health Care / Assisted Living**  
Bessie Montgomery –Montgomery Gardens  
Cattie Taylor –Beehive, Starkville  
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  
Mary Jo Wallace –The Blake at Flowood  
Carolyn Wofford –Heritage at Irene Wood, Memphis, Tennessee

**NOTICE for VIP CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP**  
(“VIPs” = FPC’s Senior Fellowship for Members, Visitors & Other Friends Who are Age 65+)

**VIP Christmas Party**  
**This Thursday, Dec 19, at 11:30 a.m.**  
**J-3 Ranch for lunch, dessert and**  
**a short Christmas program.**

*If you would prefer to carpool, we will meet at the church parking lot at 11 a.m. and take a church van.*  
Please call the church office 662-323-1994, Amy Aarhus 662-722-2309 or Peggy Branch 662-418-1310 to RSVP as soon as possible.

**First Presbyterian Church, Starkville (EPC)**  
**Women’s Ministry –**  
**Janice Kinard, Moderator**

**To Live Is Christ** by Beth Moore is an in-depth study of the life and ministry of Paul. Exploring the life of Paul will, among other things: deepen our understanding of God’s grace; demonstrate God’s ability to use anyone who is willing to serve Him; demonstrate the impact one surrendered life can have; encourage us to remain strong and steadfast during times of suffering; and most of all, increase our passion to know Christ!

**This 11-session Women’s Bible Study will begin on Thursday, January 9, 2020, 1:00pm-2:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.** The study guide costs approximately \$16.00. **Please contact the church office to order your guide, or contact Susan after December 25. Her contact information is mizsuz2000@yahoo.com or 662-312-6052.**

**FPC Starkville (EPC) Men’s Ministry**  
Will Rackley, President, Charlie Weatherly, Treasurer



Starkville’s Church that Preaches the *Doctrines of Grace*  
and

That is Part of the EPC – *A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

Visit Our Website for Sermon Podcasts & Ministry News

[www.fpcstarkville.org](http://www.fpcstarkville.org)



**December 15, 2019**

*The Third Sunday in Advent*

**Service for the Lord’s Day**  
**10:00 a.m. Unified Worship Service,**

*including Youth Ministry Leadership*  
*and*

**The FPC Children’s Choir’s Presentation of**  
**Christmas Is Jesus**  
by Luke Gambill and Rhonda Frazier