

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

DECEMBER 22, 2019
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PRELUDE

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Brenda Koenig and Keith Koenig, soloists; Jennifer Blackburn, piano

WELCOME

NOTES ON YEAR-END CHRISTMAS MISSION, INTRODUCING NEW YEAR SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND CCO JUBILEE

Martin Lifer

*INTROIT (11:00 – Chancel Choir, Dr. Craig Aarhus directing)

*CALL TO WORSHIP - led by the Downey Family (8:30) and the Mullen Family (11:00)
LIGHTING THE CANDLE FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
INVOCATION

*HYMN 205 (vv. 1 & 3)

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00 a.m.)

Elizabeth Dean (Ella) Fountain and Abigail Wade Fountain,
daughters of Andrew and Elizabeth Fountain

THE PARENTS' PROFESSIONS OF FAITH AND DEDICATION OF THEIR DAUGHTERS UNTO GOD

FPC MEMBERS' COVENANTAL COMMITMENTS

Elder-Sponsor Jimmy Hardin

*WORSHIPING CONGREGATION'S AFFIRMATIONS OF FAITH

Joe Nasvytis

*The Apostles' Creed (Unison) 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.

*The Baptismal Affirmation from the Liturgy of the French Reformed Church (Unison) Ella and Abigail – For you, Jesus Christ came into the world. For you, He went through the agony of Gethsemane and the darkness of Calvary. For you, He triumphed over death. For you, little children, even though you did not know it. But this is what we believe: "We love God, because He first loved us. So welcome to the family of faith!"

BAPTISMS AND BLESSINGS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIVE SONG (Unison)

Child of promise, God claims you. God helps you, protects you, and loves you too. We are here to say this day that we will help you on your way. Child of promise, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

PRAYER WITH YOUNG CHILDREN (The TLC Ministry following the prayer is for children from pre-school age

through 1st grade-level students.)

Ashleigh Murdock

ADVENT SUNDAY CONFESSION & PETITION

ADVENT SCRIPTURE – Matthew 25:31-46

Reid Roberson

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND 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

*GOSPEL ANTHEM (11:00 – Chancel Choir) Festival of Carols

arr. Fettke

*****ADVENT CAROL 176 (8:00 a.m. only) Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*GIVING - GOD'S TITHE, CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING, AND JOYFUL PROMISE PLEDGES

*PRAYER OF THANKS AND DEDICATION

Joe Nasvytis

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Sorenson

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: Robby Holditch

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

Today's Greeters: (8:30) – Jane Vemer; (11:00) – Leah Kemp, Meredith Martin

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 5:13-15; Luke 2:8-18
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 181, 857)

SERMON

*More than Ornaments;
the Real Christmas Angels*

Martin Lifer

RESPONDING IN FAITH TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO BELIEVE IN CHRIST AND TO FOLLOW HIM IN HIS KINGDOM MISSION

*HYMN 172 (vv. 1 & 4)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Sussex Carol

arr. Fedak

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.

If you would like to learn more about growing in faith in Jesus Christ, 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).

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service This Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.

Childcare available beginning at 4:45p.m.



Prepare to Receive the Lord's Supper Faithfully. On Christmas Eve, we will share the Lord's Supper from the Lord's Table with all baptized and affirming believers who are (a) active in fellowship either in our congregation OR in another evangelical church professing personal faith in salvation through Jesus Christ, and (b) prepared in the Holy Spirit to discern and partake of the Body. Therefore, we ask you to focused days of spiritual renewal, in preparation for sharing Holy Communion. God's Word instructs that our preparation should include Spirit-led self-examination, repentance, and reconciliation to God and to others (particularly fellow believers from whom we may have become estranged) – while always trusting in God's grace in all things.

"Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body of Christ eats and drinks judgment on himself." [1 Corinthians 11:28-29]

December 29 – First Sunday in the Christmastide 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

January 5 – Epiphany & New Year's Sunday

Two New Year 20+20-Focused Services (8:30, 11:00 a.m.)



8:30 a.m.

New Year Worship Service

9:45 a.m.

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

11:00 a.m.

New Year Worship Service

More than Ornaments; the Real Christmas Angels

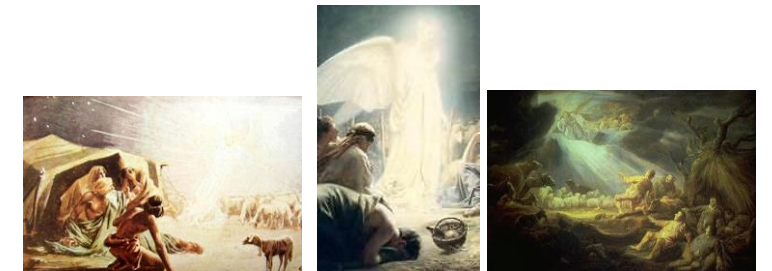


Joshua 5:13-15 refers to the LORD's Army [צְבָאָה – *tsaba*], the Heavenly Host of (fighting) Angels.

Psalms 24:10 - Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts [צְבָאָה – *tsaba-ot*], He is the King of glory!

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (v. 3) – Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same; and He must win the battle."

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. [lit. they feared with GREAT fear"]



And the angel of the Lord said, "Fear not!...

"Fear not! For, behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host [στρατιάς – *stratias*] stratia: an army

praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among those with whom He is well pleased!"

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Joshua 5:13 - When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him **with his drawn sword in his hand**. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?"

Joshua 5:15 - And He said, "No; rather, I am **the Commander of the army [host] of the LORD**. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to Him, "What does my lord say to his servant?"

And the **Commander of the LORD's army** said to Joshua, "**Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.**" And Joshua did so.

The angel told the shepherds to go see the Commander of the Heavenly Armies: the baby in the manger.

Revelation 19: 11ff.

v. 11 – Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The One sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

v. And **the armies of heaven**, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses.

Week of December 22, 2019

SUNDAY:	8:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall)
Join us today <i>during our Fellowship Gathering</i> to sing "Happy Birthday!" to Jesus and share a Birthday Cake (<i>Thank You to Beverly Jones & Our Fellowship Team</i>)		
11:00 a.m.	Worship Service	
MONDAY:	8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous, also on T, W, & F (Ed. Bldg)
TUESDAY:	Church Office Closed	
	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship Service
WEDNESDAY:	Church Office Closed	
THURSDAY:	Church Office Open for Regular Hours (9 a.m.-Noon, 1-4:00 p.m.)	
FRIDAY:	Church Office Open for Regular Hours (9 a.m.-Noon, 1-4:00 p.m.)	
SATURDAY:	6:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous (Christian Education Bldg.)

Prayer List

Billy and Brenda Harrington
Boswell Kennard
Wells Beaty
Sylvia Love
Greta Bryan
Paula Elliott
Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware
Jimmie Brown
Betty Latimer
Roxene Atkinson
Randell Foxworth
Marjorie Malone
John Clark Packer
Mae Glass (Vivien Miller's mother)
Scott Guest and Thomas Guest (son & grandson of Charlie & Rubye Guest)
Sean and Morgan Clark Schnurr & Family
Bruce Leopold, Danielle Gregory (friend of Bruce Leopold)
Bill and Tan Chapman
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 Reynold'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, M.C. Ellis & Frances Ellis (Ellen Mauldin's brother, brother-in-law and sister)
Bobby Fleming (brother of Gloria Cade), and Hazel Davis (Wallace Cade's aunt)
Diane Daniels and Delores Irvin (Diane's sister)
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)
Larry Melton (Kathy Wright's father)

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

The poinsettias are provided this month by the generous support of the Givers mentioned in this month's Poinsettia Gifts 2019 Booklet. All Givers to the Poinsettia Support Fund have thereby also provided mission support to the Palmer Home for Children. Please see the special thanks to the Givers in the booklet, 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.

+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 this week, 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*."

UPCOMING YOUTH MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP:

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.

FPC Officers

Dr. Martin Lifer, Moderator / Will Martin, Clerk of Session
Elders Emeriti: James (Jim) Long and Dero Ramsey

Elders Serving on Our Session

<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>
Dolph Bryan	Carl Ivey	Wallace Cade
Harold Clark	Jim Beaty	Jack Forbus
Cecelia Cook	Peggy Johnson	Will Martin
Bob Daniels	Jeff Foster	Cal Rackley
Orly Hardin		
Edward Kemp		

Deacons Serving on Our Diaconate

<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>
Peggy Branch	Johnny Fair	Glenda Clark
Vivian Cade	Tabor Mullen	Jack Cook
Joel Downey	Jeremy Murdock	Peyton Fandel
Jason Ryder	Kristen Skinner	Robby Holditch

Officers-Elect

<u>Session Class of 2022</u>	<u>Diaconate Class of 2022</u>
Harry Bell	Jack Atkins
Scotty Crawford	Rebecca Banzhaf
Wesley Ferguson	Janet Bardwell
Susan Gamel	Lee Weiskopf
Brien Henry	

FPC Starkville (EPC) Men's Ministry

Will Rackley, President, Charlie Weatherly, Treasurer

First Presbyterian Church, Starkville (EPC) Women's Ministry - Janice Kinard, Moderator

Women's Bible Studies

The *Women in the Word* Bible Study & Fellowship Group, led by Nancy Lifer, meets each Sunday throughout the year in Room S-6 (on the main Sanctuary Floor, around the corner from the Chapel). The group includes women of all generations and backgrounds - single and married, from college students & young adult through VIP-age members. The group is currently **studying the New Testament Book of James**.

NEW Study for Wednesday Night: Women, join us in the New Year/spring semester as we study together on Wednesday nights during the Friends and Family program. We will begin the semester with Priscilla Shirer's 5-session study *Breathe*, embracing the concept of Sabbath and how it can change our lives! Please sign up through the church office or contact Orly Hardin to order your study journal. Looking forward to our women's Wednesday night group being back together on Wednesday evenings in 2020!

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.



Starkville's Church
That Preaches the *Doctrines of Grace*
and
That is Part of the EPC -

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches.



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 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

This week: Monday and Thursday- Friday: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m. & 1:00-4:00 p.m.