

LORD’S DAY SERVICE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STARKVILLE
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2019

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming* arr. Wagner
Jennifer Blackbourn

WELCOME; INVITATION TO ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON MINISTRIES Martin Lifer

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

LIGHTING THE CANDLE FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT; CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION
(8:30 – Bob and Priscilla Boyd /11:00 Edward and Leah Kemp Family)

*HYMN 188 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH – *The Apostles’ Creed* Reid Roberson
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) *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Veni Emmanuel

GOD’S WORD FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION Amy Aarhus
Martin Lifer
(*Unison Prayer*) Father, forgive us; we are sinners. Forgive us for not giving to You and to your Son, Jesus, the honor You are due. Indeed, forgive us for dishonoring You and for rejecting your Word. We ignore your commands and forfeit your blessings for ourselves and for our families. We are more self-centered than Christ-centered. From all the time, money, and abilities You have given to us – we expend the first and the best for ourselves, instead of giving back the first and best to You, for the work of your Church and Kingdom. Please lead us to true repentance in your Spirit. Change our hearts, O God! Give us hearts to love You and to follow your Word – serving, giving, and witnessing in the Name of your Son, Jesus.

May we truly share in your grace, partake of his Body and Cup, and rejoice in your Kingdom forever.

SILENT PRAYERS

GOOD NEWS OF GOD’S GRACE

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 668 - THE DOXOLOGY

*GIVING TO GOD: HIS TITHE, OUR FURTHER OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THANK AND DEDICATION Joe Nasvytis

OFFERTORY *Back to Bethlehem* arr. Ham
Jennifer Blackbourn

*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 Pastor Lifer this week at the church office. You may also send a message to Pastor Lifer via email (mwllifer3@gmail.com).

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.

Our flowers are given today to the **Glory of God** by a member of our congregation.

GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Mark 6:1-6
(ESV Pew Bible p. 841)

SERMON SERIES ON MARK: *Who Do You Say Jesus Is?*

TODAY’S SERMON *Ready for Rejection*

GOD’S WORD SEALED

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE LORD’S WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

BLESSING AND SENDING GOD’S PEOPLE AS HIS MISSIONARIES

PRAYER OF DEDICATION -

*HYMN 360 *Tell the Good News* RHEA

*BENEDICTION Martin Lifer

CHORAL RESPONSE *Amen*

*POSTLUDE *Advent Noel*arr. Ryan
Jennifer Blackbourn

*The congregation is invited to stand.

Deacon of the Month: Robbie Holditch

Today’s Ushers: (8:30) George Vemer, (11:00) Will Martin, Loren Zimmerman

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

Upcoming Schedule for Worship During Advent & Christmas:

Next Week - Sunday, Dec. 8 – ONE SERVICE at 11 a.m.
No 8:30 a.m. Service. Sunday School 9:45-10:30 a.m., followed by ONE Lord’s Day Service at 11 a.m., our Christmas Mission Blessing Service, featuring the Chancel Choir’s singing of God Is With Us, by Tom Fettke.

Sunday, Dec. 15 – ONE SERVICE at 10 a.m.
No Sunday School, and ONE Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m., featuring the Annual Children’s Ministry & Children’s Choir’s Christmas Program, together with Youth assisting in worship and a Good News message from Pastor Lifer, ... followed by the Youth Ministry Fundraiser Brunch, 11:15 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Sundays, Dec. 22 & 29 – Regular Sunday Schedule, with Sunday School and with 8:30 Service and 11 a.m. Service

Also Note: Christmas Eve – Candlelight Communion Service, 5 p.m.

TODAY’S KEY SERMON & SCRIPTURE NOTES

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people. (Lk. 2:29-31)

This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too. (Luke 2:34-35)

Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (2Tim. 3:12)

Main Point—Since people often rejected Jesus, we can expect others to reject us while we honor Jesus.

He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this

man get these things? **What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?**³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And **they took offense at him.** ⁴ And Jesus said to them, "**A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.**"⁵ And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And **he marveled because of their unbelief.** And he went about among the villages teaching. (Mark 6:1-6)

And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes....So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed. (Mk. 1:22, 5:20)

1. People will often reject us because of how _____ we seem.

Again in verses 2-3 of Mark 6, we read, ² And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and **many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?**³ **Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?"**

How did this man get such learning without having studied?"(Jn. 7:15).

Even [Jesus’] own brothers did not believe in Him (Jn. 7:5)

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2Cor. 4:4)

2. People view Jesus and Christ-followers as _____ .

a. The _____ itself seems ordinary.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but **to us who are being saved it is the power of God.** For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, **God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.** Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but **we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** (1Cor. 1:18-24)

b. Christians can seem _____ .

You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? (1Cor. 3:3)

For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want...We all stumble in many ways...If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (Gal. 5:17; James 3:2; 1Jn. 1:8)

3. Jesus’ power can work in our lives today when we _____ Him.

A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household. (Mk. 6:4)

a. We can honor Jesus through our _____ .

Daughter, **your faith has healed you.** Go in peace and be freed from your suffering. (Mark 5:34)

b. We can honor Jesus through our actions.
Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and **I too will love him and show myself to him...**If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and **we will come to him and make our home with him.** (John 14:21, 23)

c. We can honor Jesus through _____ .

Come near to God and he will come near to you. (James 4:8)

You have made known to me the path of life; **you will fill me with joy in your presence,** with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (Ps. 16:11-17:1)

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matt 5:10-12)

Week of December 1, 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 (120 Jackson St.)
	8:00 p.m.	
TUESDAY:	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study (Parlor)
	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Practice
	5:30 p.m.	Family Advent Night (Advent Crafts and Children's Ministry Fellowship)
WEDNESDAY:	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir & Orchestra Practice for (Sanctuary)
	7:00 p.m.	
THURSDAY:	5:00 p.m.	Meet at Church for Evening of Christmas Caroling

Prayer List
Boswell Kennard
Greta Bryan
Paula Elliott
Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware
John Clark Packer
Mae Glass (Vivien Miller's mother)
Jimmie Brown
Betty Latimer
Roxene Atkinson
Randell Foxworth
Marjorie Malone
Billy and Brenda Harrington
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 (Bryn Taylor'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, 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

Current Officers & Officers-Elect			
Dr. Martin Lifer, Moderator / Will Martin, Clerk of Session			
Elders Emeriti: James (Jim) Long and Dero Ramsey			
Session			
Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Dolph Bryan	Carl Ivey	Wallace Cade	Harry Bell
Harold Clark	Jim Beaty	Jack Forbus	Scotty Crawford
Cecelia Cook	Peggy Johnson	Will Martin	Wesley Ferguson
Bob Daniels	Jeff Foster	Cal Rackley	Susan Gamel
Orly Hardin			Brien Henry
Edward Kemp			
Diaconate			
Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Peggy Branch	Johnny Fair	Glenda Clark	Jack Atkins
Vivian Cade	Tabor Mullen	Jack Cook	Rebecca Banzhaf
Joel Downey	Jeremy Murdock	Peyton Fandel	Janet Bardwell
Jason Ryder	Kristen Skinner	Robby Holditch	Lee Weiskopf

FPC Starkville (EPC) Men's Ministry
Will Rackley, President, Charlie Weatherly, Treasurer
FPC Starkville (EPC) Women's Ministry
Janice Kinard, Moderator
Mission for the month – Child of the Church Missionaries (2 candidates)

FPC Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry – December 2019 Special Events Schedule

Today, Dec. 1, 3:00 p.m. – Float Decorating
Children, Students and Adults –
Join us for our Christmas Float Decorating – at the Bell Building Supply warehouse (402 E. Lampkin Street, downtown Starkville).

Monday, Dec. 2, 4:30 p.m. – Board the Float!
Children & Youth and Parents - Meet at the FPC Float to prepare for the Starkville Christmas Parade, Downtown Starkville.

Wednesday, December 4, 5:30 p.m. – Family Advent Night.
Join us in the FPC Fellowship Hall for food and Advent & Christmas Crafts.

Thursday, Dec. 5, 5:00 p.m. – Christmas Caroling
Everyone is welcome to join us for an early evening of Christmas Caroling. Meet at the Church Offices/ Johnson Room on Thursday night 5:00-5:15 p.m. We will travel in the church vans to The Claiborne and to several church members' homes.

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 5:30 p.m. – Rehearsal, Children's Christmas Program -- in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, Dec. 15, 10:00 a.m.- Children's Christmas Program featured in our single worship service, 10:00 a.m., followed by

Youth Ministry Fundraiser Brunch (Fellowship Hall).

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

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 New Year's Eve Celebration
Robinson Lake. Come enjoy s'mores, hot chocolate & fireworks, 8-10 p.m.

Nursery Care schedule for special services this December
- On December 8, we will have only one service beginning at 11 a.m. We will have nursery available, and TLC will be as usual for children 3 years old through first grade.
- December 15, we will also have one service, beginning at 10 a.m.
- On Christmas Eve, 4:30-6:30 p.m. (for our 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Communion Service), we will also have nursery care available at FPC for children. There will be no TLC this day, but there will be nursery available for our youngest children – 2-years-old and younger. Contact Ashleigh Murdock with any questions or for more info!



Starkville's Church
That Preaches the Doctrines of Grace
and
That is Part of the EPC –
A Global Movement of Evangelical Christians.



DECEMBER 1, 2019
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Service | 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School | 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall) | 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 Thanksgiving Week
Mon. - Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00-4:30 p.m.