

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI**

**DECEMBER 29, 2019
FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMASTIDE**

PRELUDE *The Messiah Medley* arr. Wyrzten
Jennifer Blackburn

WELCOME Martin Lifer

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT (11:00 – Chancel Choir)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE - Reid & Madeline Roberson (8:30) and The Holditch Family (11:00)
INVOCATION

***HYMN 185** *There's a Song in the Air* CHRISTMAS SONG

GOD'S GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Martin Lifer

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – from The (Westminster) Shorter Catechism Reid Roberson

Reid Roberson: Who is the redeemer of God's chosen ones?
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 OF RESPONSE 670 - THE GLORIA PATRI**

***ANTHEM** (11:00 – Madeline Roberson, solo, and Chancel Choir)
Blessed Jesus Cook, Fettke/Faure

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION & PETITION

Prayer of Confession (Prayed by each worshiper, but led in unison by Pastor Lifer):

O God my Father, please forgive me for the ways I have been unfaithful to You this year; following my own ways and the ways of others, instead of following your Way.

Lord Jesus, I ask your forgiveness for any ways that I have denied and ignored You, Forgive me, O Lord, for the times this year when I have avoided mentioning Your Name and giving witness to your Good News, because I was more concerned with fitting in with others than with being faithful to You.

Holy Lord, please let your forgiveness find me. Lead me to follow You into the New Year. Renew me in your Holy Spirit, so that I will love You truly and serve You boldly.

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

***HYMN OF RESPONSE 668 - THE DOXOLOGY**

***GIVING - GOD'S TITHE, JOYFUL PROMISE PLEDGES, AND FURTHER OFFERINGS**

***PRAYER OF THANKS AND DEDICATION**

OFFERTORY *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* arr. Hayes
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

Matthew 2
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 807-808)

SERMON

Herods and Heroes

Martin Lifer

RESPONDING IN FAITH TO GOD'S WORD

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

***HYMN 198**

What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

arr. Mason
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** today, or call the church office. You may also send a message to Pastor Lifer via email (mwlifer3@gmail.com).

Have a Happy New Year:

Plan to

Praise God on the First Lord's Day of 2020:

January 5, 2020: Epiphany & New Year's Sunday

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



8:30 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

New Year Worship Service
Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall)
New Year Worship Service



YOUTH MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP

**THIS Tuesday, Dec. 31st, 8 p.m. –
at Robinson Lake (weather permitting):**

**FPC Youth Ministry's New Year's Eve
Celebration!!!**

Come enjoy s'mores, hot chocolate & fireworks, 8-10 p.m.



Week of December 29, 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

MON-TUES: Church Office Open for Regular Hours (9 a.m.-Noon, 1-4:00 p.m.)

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.)

Tejeras Meals Gift: Members of the FPC Congregation provided two meals for the *Tejeras* Mission to the glory of God.

Prayer List

Billy and Brenda Harrington
Boswell Kennard
John Clark Packer
Sylvia Love
Greta Bryan
Paula Elliott
Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware
Jimmie Brown
Bruce and Betty Latimer
Roxene Atkinson
Wells Beaty
Randell Foxworth
Marjorie Malone
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, Frances Ellis (Ellen Mauldin's brother 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

Please join our church family in expressing condolences to – and continuing to pray for – **Ellen Mauldin and her sister, Frances Ellis, following the death of Frances' husband, M. C. Ellis last Sunday, December 22.**

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 for the New Year:

The *Women in the Word* Sunday Bible Study & Fellowship Group.
Led by Nancy Lifer, this group meets each Sunday 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.**

For more information, speak to Nancy Lifer, or send an email to her at nnlifer@gmail.com.

NEW Study for Wednesday Night, beginning January 15:

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!

Thursday Women's Bible Study Group Begins New Series on January 9:
***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-2:30p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
The study guide costs approximately \$16.00.
Please contact the church office to order your guide, or contact Susan.
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



FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMASTIDE

DECEMBER 29, 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 - Tuesday and Thursday - Friday:
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00-4:00 p.m.