

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STARKVILLE (EPC)

JULY 7, 2019

PRELUDE

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

arr. Turner
 Jennifer Blackburn

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martin Lifer

MUSICAL INTROIT *Concerto in A minor, Op. 3, No. 6, second movement*

Vivaldi
 Sam Carpenter (Myles and June Carpenter's grandson), violin
 Jennifer Blackburn, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP IN CHRIST'S NAME

***Responsive Litany** *from* Psalm 96:10-12 Reid Roberson

Minister: Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" Yes, the world is established; it shall not be moved; the LORD will judge the peoples with equity.

ALL: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it!

Let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees sing for joy before the LORD, because He comes – because He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION & PRAISE**

***HYMN 641** *America the Beautiful* MATERNA

GOD'S WORD FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

PRAYERS OF PRAISE, PENITENCE & 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

***AFFIRMING OUR FAITH** – *from The (Westminster) Larger Catechism, Q. 80* Martin Lifer

Minister: Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are and will remain in a state of grace, persevering to salvation?

ALL: Those who truly believe in Christ and try to walk in good conscience before Him may be infallibly assured that they are and will remain in a state of grace, persevering to salvation. This assurance is not the result of any unusual revelation but comes from faith grounded on the truth of God's promises and from the Spirit, Who gives believers the spiritual insight into their own hearts, to which these promises are directed. The Spirit also testifies with believers' spirits that they are the children of God.

***HYMN 668 - THE DOXOLOGY**

***OFFERING: GOD'S TITHE AND OUR FURTHER OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

arr. Halberg
 Jennifer Blackburn

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

Deacon of the Month: Peggy Branch
Today's Ushers: Larry Branch, Jane Bobbitt
Today's Greeters: Jack Cook, Cecelia Cook

Thank you for your expressions of condolences to – and prayers on behalf of – the Lifer family, following the **death of Nancy Lifer's mother, Louise Nants Haddigan.** On Friday, Dr. Lifer officiated a Service in Celebration of the Risen Christ in Winter Park, Florida, followed by an Interment Service at the Florida National Cemetery, where Louise was buried with her husband of 55 years, Nancy's father – Lt. Jack Nants – who died in 2003.

This afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., we will host a Memorial Service for Louise Nants Haddigan in our Sanctuary, followed by a reception and visitation in the Fellowship Hall, which will be hosted by our FPC Women's Ministry.

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:4-6

(ESV Pew Bible p. 976)

SERMON

Assurance

Joe Nasvytis

INVITATION TO TRUST AND FOLLOW JESUS

CALLED, BLESSED AND SENT AS WITNESSES OF GOD'S WORD

***HYMN 446**

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

ASSURANCE

***COMMISSION AND BEDICTION**

Joe Nasvytis

***POSTLUDE**

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

arr. Thallander
 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 these devices!

The Sanctuary Flowers are given today by the Lifer family – to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Louise Nants Haddigan, and in thanksgiving for her church family at FPC Starkville.

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 (mwlifer3@gmail.com).

TODAY and throughout July...(July 14, 21 & 28)

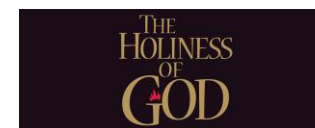


We will have a single, unified Lord's Day Worship Service beginning at 10:00 a.m. each of the four Sundays this month. In addition, our Children's and Youth Sunday School will NOT meet during July – to provide a "sabbatical" to our small number of volunteers for Children's and Youth Sunday School; however, we will provide childcare during the 10:00 am services in July.

SPECIAL ADULT BIBLE STUDY EACH SUNDAY IN JULY, 8:45-9:30 a.m. Though FPC's Children's Sunday School and most of our Adult Sunday Bible Study & Fellowship Groups will *not* meet for the four Sundays in July – **The Crusader Class is hosting a Plenary Bible Study to which all adults, youth, and older children are invited. Each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall, 8:45-9:30 a.m.,** the class will learn from Dr. R.C. Sproul's inspiring classic, ***The Holiness of God.***

R.C. Sproul's *The Holiness of God,*

The class will include weekly videos of Dr. Sproul's inspired messages, together with the book and study guides for Bible Study and Group discussions on Sunday morning.



HELP NEEDED to Continue to Host Our Sunday 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship Services beginning NEXT Month:

Please Sign Up NOW to Be an Usher or Greeter on One or More Sundays August-December.

Please access our "Signup Genius" webpage to sign up -

Sign up for the **8:30 a.m.:** <https://tinyurl.com/FPC-Aug-Dec-2019-UG-830AM>

Sign up for **11:00 a.m.** (or 10 a.m. in June) : <https://tinyurl.com/FPC-Jul-Dec-2019-UG-11AM> --

...or call Vivian Cade or Rita Usher at the church office 662-323-1994.



*We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, **in order to make your hope sure.*** (Heb. 6:11)

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God **so that you may know that you have eternal life.*** (1John 5:13)

1. **Since God chooses Christ-followers before creation, we can have _____ of our salvation and of God's love for us.**

*For **he chose us in him before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **he predestined us** to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, **in accordance with his pleasure and will**—to the praise of **his glorious grace, which he has freely given us** in the One he loves.* (Eph. 1:4–6)

a. **God chose to love us _____ we could do anything good or bad.**

*I endure everything **for the sake of the elect,** that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory...Therefore, **as God's chosen people,** holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Col. 3:12; 2 Tim. 2:10) When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and **all who were appointed for eternal life believed.** The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. (Acts 13:48-49)*

b. **God's love comes before our _____ and outlasts our _____.**

2. **Since it's God's pleasure and _____ to save His children, we can humbly _____ Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith.**

*He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, **in accordance with his pleasure and will.*** (Eph 1:5)

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus **by the will of God.*** (Eph. 1:1)

*"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now **get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.**"* (Acts 9:35-6)

a. **As we worship Jesus as the author and finisher of our salvation, we'll be motivated to _____ God for His _____.**

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, **the author and perfecter of our faith,** who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* (Heb. 12:2)

***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,** who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. By the grace of God I am what I am, and **his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of [the other apostles]—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.** Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we **were encouraged about you because of your faith.** For **now we really live,** since you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for **all the joy we have in the presence of our God** because of you? (Eph. 1:3; 1Cor. 15:10; 1Thess. 3:7-9)*

*To the praise of his glorious grace, which **He has freely given us** in the One He loves.* (Eph. 1:6)

b. **We can praise God for His grace in electing Christ-followers to be His children, because that's our _____.**

*But **you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*** (1Pet. 2:9)

c. **God's chosen us specifically so we can _____ Him.**

Week of July 7, 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.)

TUESDAY: 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast (Parlor)
 5:30 p.m. Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
 6:00 p.m. Casserole Kitchen (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY: 6:00 p.m. Casserole Kitchen (Fellowship Hall)

SATURDAY: 6:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (120 Jackson St.)

CASSEROLE KITCHEN MISSION MEAL HOSTS AT FPC THIS WEEK
 July 9 – Rebecca Banzhaf July 11 – Ross Collins

July 10 TEJERAS MEAL SPONSOR (Mission meal for children in Tejeras, Honduras)
 Ellen Mauldin for the glory of God and in honor of Evelyn Easterling (Ellen's great granddaughter).

Prayer List

Joe and Carol Mobley
 Levette and Peggy Johnson
 Bill Gamel
 Marjorie Malone
 Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware
 Philip and Darinda Gruchy
 Sean and Morgan Clark Schnurr & Family
 Charlie Guest
 Bruce Leopold; Danielle Gregory (friend of Bruce Leopold)
 Paula Elliott
 Sylvia Love
 Charles Atkinson
 Ross Collins
 Billy and Brenda Harrington
 Janet, Gary, and Jay Bardwell
 Carolyn Wofford
 Scott Guest (Charlie and Rubye's son)
 Teresa Miller (Amy Harrison's mom)
 Emily Chancellor (Natalie Morgan's Niece)
 Carl Ivey, Sr. (Dukedom, Kentucky); Michael Belcher (Friend of the Iveys)
 Betty Randle Freeman (Russell Randle's sister)
 Bob and Dot Forbus, and Raleigh Wood (brother, sister-in-law, and friend of Jack Forbus)
 Thomas Guest (grandson of Charlie & Rubye Guest).
 Gerlene Lifer
 Leslie Drane, Frances Ellis (Ellen Mauldin's brother and sister)
 Bobby Fleming (brother of Gloria Cade)
 David Skinner (Kyle Skinner's father)
 Diane Daniels, her sister, Delores Irvin, Rick Simmonds and Kevin McCauley, 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)
 Dylan Walker (Jean Alice McDavid's great-nephew)

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 – Sunnyside 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

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

<u>Class of 2019</u> Peggy Branch Vivian Cade Joel Downey Jason Ryder	<u>Class of 2020</u> Tabor Mullen Kristen Skinner Johnny Fair Jeremy Murdock	<u>Class of 2021</u> Glenda Clark Jack Cook Peyton Fandel Robby Holditch
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FPC Starkville (EPC) Women's Ministry

Janice Kinard, Moderator

The coordinating team does not meet this month.
 Circles are not formally scheduled to meet this month.

HELP US PREPARE FOR OUR AUGUST 4 DIAPERS & WIPES SHOWER FOR THE SIMMONS FAMILY!

Lane and Emily Simmons are expecting the birth of their son and third child, **Harrison Lane Simmons**, this summer, and our Women's Ministry and Church Family are now planning for a Diapers & Wipes Shower to be during our Fellowship Gathering Time on **August 4**.

Please bring gifts of diapers and diaper wipes to the bin in the Fellowship Hall on any Sunday morning OR bring your gift to the Church Office during Office Hours.

FPC Starkville (EPC) Men's Ministry

Will Rackley, *President*, Charlie Weatherly, *Treasurer*

Children's & Youth Ministry News

MVP Presbyterian Summer Camp for FPC's Children & Youth July 22-27



Children and Youth from EPC and ARP congregations will be at the Rising Son Camp Facilities at French Camp, MS.

This is **THE** summer camp FPC now sponsors and recommends to members. With leadership that includes pastors from our Central South Presbytery, the MVP Camp clearly conveys God's Word to our children AND is lots of fun!!! Parents & Families: If you have not yet registered, but are interested in your child attending, then please contact Pastor Lifer, Ashleigh Murdock, or the church office as soon as possible.

Thanksgiving for God's Call of Rev. Joe Nasvytis and family to FPC.



We continue to thank God for his call of Rev. Nasvytis to FPC, and pray for Joe and his wife Ann, as well as their daughters – Grace (10) and Sophie (9) – as they continue this month their transition to Starkville. We thank God that Joe has completed his first full week of ministry as our Assistant Pastor and is preaching this Lord's Day his first sermon at FPC.



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

For by grace you have been saved through faith – and this is not your own doing. It is a gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one may boast.
 Ephesians 2:8-9



At FPC's Annual Freedom Fellowship on June 9 –
Patriotic members, friends, and children of FPC gathered with Perry Sellers to thank God for our national heritage, and to review and participate in the proper and patriotic retiring of U.S.A. flags.

JULY 7, 2019

Sunday School | 8:30 – 9:25 a.m.

Morning Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall) | 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service | 10:00 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 p.m. & 1:00-4:30 p.m.