

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STARKVILLE

MARCH 8, 2020

THE SECOND SUNDAY DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace

arr. Broughton  
Jennifer Blackbourn

WELCOME & MINISTRY INVITATIONS

Martin Lifer

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

\*RESPONSIVE READING OF GOD’S WORD

from Isaiah 35:1-6

Reid Roberson

Minister: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus: it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

ALL: The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it: the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God!

Minister: Strengthen weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees! Say to those who have an anxious heart:

ALL: “Be strong! Fear not!”

Minister: Behold, your God will come with vengeance; with the recompense of God He will come and save you.

ALL: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of mute sing for joy.

Minister: For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

\*INVOCATION

\*HYMN 443

Open My Eyes, That I May See

SCOTT

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Ashleigh Murdock (11:00)

ANTHEM (11:00 – Chancel Choir)

With a Word

CONFESSIONS OF FAITH & REPENTANCE; PRAYERS & OFFERINGS OF GRATITUDE

\*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH -

from The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 21

Martin Lifer

Minister: What is sin?

ALL: Sin is disobeying or not conforming to God’s law in any way.

\*PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, CONFESSION & PETITION

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.

\*GOOD NEWS OF GOD’S GRACE

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 668 - THE DOXOLOGY

GIVING - GOD’S TITHE AND FURTHER OFFERINGS

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

arr. Lucas  
Jennifer Blackbourn

\*The congregation is invited to stand.

Visiting with Us?



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 Christ, church membership and/or ways you can serve at FPC – speak to Pastor Lifer or send an email via mwlifer3@gmail.com.

Please join us again on upcoming Sundays *not only* for worship *but also* for Sunday Bible Study (groups meet from 9:45 through 10:30 a.m.).

We provide the TLC Ministry for children Age 3 through 1<sup>st</sup> Graders during the 11 a.m. Service (following the Children’s Message in the service), and we also provide loving and safe Christian Childcare for infants and toddlers of FPC families & guests on the Main Floor of the Christian Education Building – northeast of the Sanctuary – from 8:15 a.m. through 12:15 p.m.

GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Mark 7:31-37; 8:22-26; Isaiah 29:16-20 (ESV Pew Bible pp. 843-44; 590)

SERMON

The Savior Who Opens Ears, Mouths, and Eyes

Martin Lifer

RESPONDING IN FAITH TO GOD’S WORD; THE CALL TO SERVE

\*RESPONSIVE HYMN 450

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PRECIOUS LORD

\*BENEDICTION

Martin Lifer

\*CHORAL RESPONSE (11:00)

Amen

TRADITIONAL

POSTLUDE

God of Grace and God of Glory

arr. McDonald  
Jennifer Blackbourn

Having trouble hearing the service? We have portable hearing assistance units connected directly to our sound system for optimum audio. Please see an usher about using a unit today.

March Deacon of the Month: Lee Weiskopf

Today’s Ushers: (8:30) –Bob Boyd; (11:00) –Jackie Mullen, Robert Cooper

Today’s Greeters: (8:30) –Janice Kinard; (11:00) – Debbie Cooper, Tabor Mullen

Today’s Sanctuary Flowers were given by Edward, Leah, Cline, Edie, and Everett Kemp to the Glory of God and in honor of Dianne Faulk on the occasion of her birthday.

SERMON NOTES

What Prophetic SIGNS has Jesus brought into my life?

Miracles? Detours?

Am I hearing Him? Am I seeing with eyes of faith?

MARK

Jesus’ Prophetic Miracles – SIGNS

Jesus’ Prophetic “Detours” (Lebanon, Syria & the Cities of the Nations) – SIGNS

The Messiah’s Proclamation in Nazareth - Luke 4:16-30

Luke 4:18-19 – Isaiah 61:1-2 & 58:6 –

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind: to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

“To proclaim the Year of the LORD’s favor.” JUBILEE – Leviticus 25/Deut. 15 – Jeremiah 34:8ff.

GOOD NEWS/RELEASE & RESTORATION

What about Decisive Conflict & Judgment?

The Messiah’s Answer to John the Baptist – Matthew 11:2-6

And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

ISAIAH 32-35 & 29

Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice. Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, .... Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly.

The fool will no more be called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be honorable. Isaiah 32:1-5

Behold, your God will come with vengeance; with the recompense of God He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of mute sing for joy. Isaiah 35:4b-6a

Shall the Potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its Maker, “He did not make me”; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”? Isaiah 29:16b

Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field...?

In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. For the ruthless shall be come to nothing, and the scoffer cease, and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off.... Isaiah 29:18-20

Mark 7:31-37 (Jesus heals deaf man who has speech impediment/Decapolis)-SIGN

Sign language & Potter’s Hand

And looking up to heaven, He sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened!” And (1) his ears were opened, (2) his tongue was released, and (3) he spoke plainly.

And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Mark 8:17-21 Jesus’ Warnings, Questions & Call to Disciples

“...Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?

Mark 8:22-26 (Jesus heals blind man/Bethsaida)-SIGN

Only recorded fully multi-stage healing by Jesus –

And He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village,...

Potter’s Hand

“Do you see anything?” - Seeing but NOT Seeing

Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and He opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Ask Jesus to take you by the hand.

Pray to hear Him! Ask to see with eyes of faith!

Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention!

Week of March 8, 2020		
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 Scout Building)
TUESDAY:	7:00 a.m.	Men’s Breakfast Bible Study & Prayer Fellowship (Parlor)
WEDNESDAY:	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Practice
THURSDAY:	1-2:30 p.m.	Women’s Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
FRIDAY:	11:00 a.m.	Youth trip to Old Mountain Outdoor Adventures Ropes Course, Winona, MS

**SPRING BREAK WEEK: *FRIENDS & FAMILY will NOT MEET This* WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, but will resume on MARCH 18.**

Prayer List

Dero Ramsey  
Janet, Gary, and Jay Bardwell  
Selma Gilmore (Dana Fant’s mother)  
Boswell Kennard  
Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware  
Jimmie Brown  
Sylvia Love  
Jimmy Dodd  
John Clark Packer  
Brenda Harrington  
Bruce and Betty Latimer  
Roxene Atkinson  
Greta Bryan  
Marjorie Malone  
Scott Guest and Thomas Guest (son & grandson of Charlie & Rubye Guest)  
Bruce Leopold, Danielle Gregory (friend of Bruce Leopold)  
Sherry Siler (Bryn Taylor’s sister)  
Ross Collins, Madison Collins (son of Ross and Margaret Collins)  
Aspen Reynolds (Anita Reynold’s granddaughter)  
Teresa Miller (Amy Harrison’s mom)  
Carl Ivey, Sr. (Kentucky), Michael Belcher, and Ashley Whitten (friends 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, Delores Irvin (Diane’s sister), and Bill and Tan Chapman  
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  
Dero and Adelaide Ramsey – The Claiborne

Please join us in **condolence and other expressions of loving support to** – together with **prayers seeking God’s comfort and peace for – Mike Black and family** – following the **death on Monday, March 2, of his wife, Betty Black**. The Blacks were active members of our church family for a number of years, with Betty serving on various occasions as a pianist for our worship services. Thank God’s for Betty’s life of service, and please ask for God’s supernatural comfort for Mike & family.

CONTINUE TO GLORIFY GOD TODAY!

**(1) Join Pastor Lifer, Joel Downey & Amanda Henry, and Other FPC Outreach Members at 2:00 p.m. THIS AFTERNOON for THE GROUNBREAKING of the Starkville Area Habitat for Humanity’s 2020 Apostles’ House: 60 Azalea Lane** *(Our 2020 Collegiate Challenge/Apostles’ House)*

**(2) Join Jennifer Blackburn for a Lenten Piano Concert THIS EVENING: Jennifer Blackburn** together with **Carole Sorensen** will present a program of piano music **today at 5:00 p.m.** at Starkville **First United Methodist Church**. *All are invited to attend.*

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT THIS FRIDAY

Youth Trip to Old Mountain Outdoor Adventures Ropes Course, Winona, MS  
Friday, March 13, meet at church at 11am  
Contact Reid Roberson TODAY to sign up or for more information – 601-813-2228

FPC Starkville (EPC) Women’s Ministry

Janice Kinard, Moderator  
Mission for WM – Missionary Support for child of the church  
Bible Lesson – Lesson 5, Overwhelmed, Ephesians 2:1-10

Circle Meetings:  
Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, Monday Afternoon at 1:30 pm, Location: Parlor, Leader Sara Wilson  
*Then, meeting NEXT WEEK because of spring break:*  
Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, Monday Evening at 7 pm, Location: Kristen Skinner’s home, 1103 Yorkshire Rd,  
Leader: Amy Weiskopf  
AND  
Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, (After spring break week), 6 pm, Location: Rebecca Banzhaf’s home –  
201 Turnberry Lane, Leader: Vivian Cade

FPC Officers

Dr. Martin Lifer, Moderator / Will Martin, Clerk of Session & Corporate Secretary  
Jeff Foster, Corporation President/ Jim Beaty, Treasurer  
Elders Emeriti: James (Jim) Long and Dero Ramsey

Elders Serving on Our Session and Board of Directors

<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Carl Ivey	Wallace Cade	Harry Bell
Jim Beaty	Jack Forbus	Scotty Crawford
Peggy Johnson	Will Martin	Wesley Ferguson
Jeff Foster	Cal Rackley	Susan Gamel
		Brien Henry

Deacons Serving on Our Diaconate

<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Johnny Fair	Glenda Clark	Jack Atkins
Tabor Mullen	Jack Cook	Rebecca Banzhaf
Jeremy Murdock	Peyton Fandel	Janet Bardwell
Kristen Skinner	Robby Holditch	Lee Weiskopf

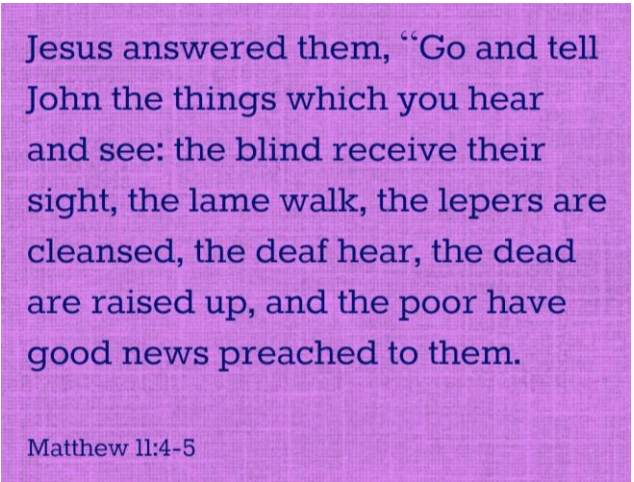
FPC Ministry Teams and Leaders

Christian Education Ministry Team (Will Martin, Chairman)  
Worship Ministry Team (Wesley Ferguson, Chairman)  
Outreach Mission Team (Jack Forbus, Chairman)  
Administration Team (Scotty Crawford, Chairman)  
Shepherding Ministry Team (Glenda Clark, Co-Chairman)

Get involved with a Ministry Team – serving the Lord and helping our church!  
The following teams or committees that are part of a team are actively seeking & need new volunteer members:  
1 - Worship Ministry Team (Wesley Ferguson, Chairman)  
including the Ushering, Music and Choir Groups of the Worship Team.  
2 - Christian Education Ministry Team (Will Martin, Chairman)  
3 - Outreach Mission Team (Jack Forbus, Chairman)  
4 – The Property Committee & Volunteer Workers of the Administration Team  
(see Harry Bell and Jeff Foster)  
5 - Shepherding Ministry Team (Glenda Clark, Co-Chairman)



Starkville’s Church  
That Preaches the *Doctrines of Grace*  
and  
That is Part of the EPC –  
*A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*



**MARCH 8, 2020**  
*THE SECOND SUNDAY DURING THE SEASON OF LENT*

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**

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Office Admin. Email | info@fpcstarkville.org.

Office Hours  
Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00-4:00 p.m.