

First Presbyterian Church, Starkville

March 15, 2020

The Third Sunday During the Season of Lent

PRELUDE

God So Loved the World

arr. Leatherman
Jennifer Blackburn

WELCOME & MINISTRY INVITATIONS

Martin Lifer

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

*RESPONSIVE READING OF GOD’S WORD

from Psalm 80:7-15,17-19

Martin Lifer

Pastor: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

ALL: You brought a vine out of Egypt; You drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the might cedars with its branches. It sent out branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

Pastor: Why, then, have You broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

ALL: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven and see.

Pastor: Have regard for this vine – the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for Yourself.

ALL: Let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the Son of Man whom You have made strong for Yourself! Then we shall not turn back from You: please give us life, and we shall call upon Your Name! Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!

Pastor: Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

*INVOCATION

*HYMN 493

Revive Us Again

REVIVE US AGAIN

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Ashleigh Murdock (11:00)

LENTEN ANTHEM (11:00 – Chancel Choir) Contemplation of the Cross

CONFESSIONS OF FAITH & REPENTANCE; PRAYERS & OFFERINGS OF GRATITUDE

*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH –

adapted from The Westminster Confession of Faith

Martin Lifer

Minister: Repentance which leads to life is the blessed product of the gospel working in believers’ lives.

ALL: Along with the doctrine of faith in Christ, the doctrine of repentance from sin is a doctrine that is to be preached by every minister of the gospel.

Although repentance is not any satisfaction for sin and does not cause forgiveness of sins – since forgiveness is an act of God’s voluntary grace in Christ – yet it is necessary to all sinners, and no one may expect to be forgiven without repentance.

*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 530 (V. 1)

I’d Rather Have Jesus

I’D RATHER HAVE JESUS

GIVING - GOD’S TITHE AND FURTHER OFFERINGS

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded/Nothing But the Blood

arr. Kelsey
Jennifer Blackburn

*The congregation is invited to stand.

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) –

Today’s Greeters:

(8:30) –Janice Kinard; (11:00) –

God’s Word Proclaimed

Scripture

Isaiah 5:1-7
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 569-70)

Sermon

Finding Fruitfulness

Reid Roberson

Responding in Faith to God’s Word; the Call to Serve

*Responsive Hymn 55

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Austrian Hymn

*Benediction

Martin Lifer

*Choral Response (11:00)

Amen

Traditional

Postlude

His Grace is Sufficient for Me


arr. Parks
Jennifer Blackburn

Flowers for the Sanctuary:

Members of our FPC congregation gave today’s Sanctuary Flowers to the Glory of God and to enhance our worship of God this Lord’s Day.

If you would like to give to provide flowers for an upcoming Sunday, please contact Kathy in the church office – 662-323-1994 or info@fpcstarkville.org.

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 mwllifer3@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 1st 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.

I’d Rather Have Jesus

I’d rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I’d rather be His than have riches untold;
I’d rather have Jesus than houses or lands.
I’d rather be led by His nail-pierced hand
Than to be the king of a vast domain
Or be held in sin’s dread sway.
I’d rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.

Isaiah 5:1-7: “Let me sing for my beloved, my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!”

SERMON NOTES

Fruitfulness flows from the grace of God.

(1) Find fruitfulness in God’s common blessings on his church (vv. 1-2a).

“Let me sing for my beloved, my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.”

Moses prophesied Israel’s disobedience: Deuteronomy 32:15-18

“But [Israel] grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him, and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation. They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger. They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded. You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you and you forgot the God who gave you birth.”

(2) Find fruitfulness by leaving behind the wilderness.

a. God judges “wild insiders” (vv. 2b-4).

“And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?”

“They were not of us”: 1 John 1:6 and 2:19

“If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.” 1 John 1:6

“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.” 1 John 2:19

b. Because the vineyard has yielded wild grapes, God gives it over to wildness (vv. 5-6).

“And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.”

God’s giving over to sin: Romans 1:18-32

(3) Find fruitfulness in the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (v. 7).

“For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!”

Jesus on temptation: Matthew 18:7-9

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.”

Week of March 15, 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:	5:00 p.m.	Nursery
	5:15 p.m.	Friends & Family Fellowship Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
	5:50 p.m.	Children & Youth programs begin
	Co-ed Bible Study (for Women & Men), <i>Apologetics at the Cross</i>	
	6:00 p.m.	Women's Study, <i>How Happiness Happens</i>
THURSDAY:	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Practice
	1-2:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Prayer List	
Charlie and Ellen Weatherly	
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	
Thomas Guest (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	

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION for *Friends & Family Dinner* - Wednesday, March 18

Wednesday's Dinner (5:15-5:45 p.m.): Pulled pork, baked beans, potato salad, rolls, and red velvet cake. Adults may also choose a Chef Salad . . . or, as always, children may have pizza; just let us know. *Place your completed reservation in the Offering, or call or send an email to the Church Office.* All reservations for March 18th must be received by tomorrow at **NOON!**

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 16th, Monday Evening at 7 pm,	
Location: Kristen Skinner's home, 1103 Yorkshire Rd,	
Leader: Amy Weiskopf	
AND	
Tuesday, March 17th, 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

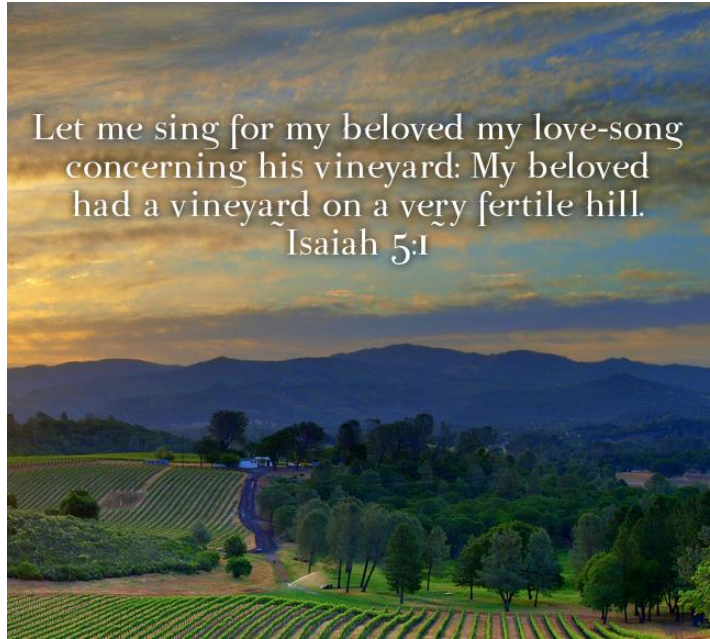
FPC Ministry Teams and Leaders	
Christian Education Ministry Team (Will Martin, Chairman)	
Worship Ministry Team (Wesley Ferguson, Chairman)	
Outreach Mission Team (Jack Forbus, Chairman)	
Administration Team (Scotty Crawford, Chairman)	
Shepherding Ministry Team (Glenda Clark, Co-Chairman)	

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)	



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
STARKVILLE

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



MARCH 15, 2020
THE THIRD 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

Church Office
307 University Drive, Starkville, Mississippi 39759
Phone: 662-323-1994
Office Admin. Email: info@fpcstarkville.org.

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