



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STARKVILLE

Starkville's Church that Preaches the Doctrines of Grace

Part of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2023



Sunday Morning Schedule, December 31

Lord's Day Service | 10:30 AM

Sunday School | 9:30 AM

Fellowship Time | 10:10 AM

Access more information and online resources:

[fpcstarkville.org](https://www.fpcstarkville.org)

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CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE
December 24, 2023

Prelude	<i>A Carol Medley</i>	Jennifer Blackburn
Welcome		Martin Lifer
Call to Worship: Lighting Christ Candle, Invocation		The Rackley Family
*Confession of Faith	<i>The Nicene Creed</i>	Dean Franklin

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; Who proceeds from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Hymn #199	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	ADESTE FIBELES
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Prayer for Illumination		Dean Franklin
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Scripture	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>	Pew Bible p. 853
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Song	<i>Breath of Heaven</i>	Grace Lifer Dunlap
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Confession of Sin		Dean Franklin
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Our Father in heaven –

You gave us your Son – the Light of the World – but we foolishly choose our artificial lights instead. We do what is right in our own eyes rather than what your Word says is right. You sent Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to redeem our world, but our unforgiving hearts choose grudges instead of grace, and our world is overwhelmed with hostility and war. Please forgive us, forgive our neighbors, and forgive our enemies. By your Spirit, change our souls and our schedules, so that we joyfully join Christ’s Church in Lord’s Day worship, walk each day by the Light of your Word, and devote our lives to serving in his Church’s mission to share your gospel of grace and peace with our neighbors and the nations.

* Assurance of God’s Grace	<i>John 3:16</i>	
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For God so loved the world, that:

He gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have life everlasting.

*Hymn #196 (v. 4)	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	ST. LOUIS
Scripture	<i>Luke 2:1-7</i>	Martin Lifer
Song	<i>Mary Did You Know?</i>	Collier Martin
Scripture	<i>Luke 2:8-20</i>	Pew Bible p. 854
*Hymn #197 (vv.1-4)	<i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i>	FRENCH CAROL
*Call to Give God His Tithe and Our Offerings		Dean Franklin
Offertory	<i>O Holy Night</i>	Jennifer Blackbourn

Give Online: fpcstarkville.org/give

Give by Mail: First Presbyterian Church, 307 University Drive, Starkville, MS 39759

Sermon	<i>This Baby Changes Everything</i>	Martin Lifer
*Hymn #192	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper: Sign and Seal of God's New Testament

Invitation to the Lord's Table

All baptized Christians who are (1) active members of an evangelical church in accord with our Essentials of Our Faith and (2) spiritually prepared to discern the Body are invited to participate in the Lord's Supper.

The Words of Institution and Blessing of the Supper

Sursum Corda: The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us lift up our hearts on high – where Jesus Christ is, in the glory of his Father, and from where Jesus will also come again.

We lift up our hearts to the Lord.

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty – Who was, and is, and is to come!

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Consecration, and Petition

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread

Sharing the Cup

***Prayer of New Testament Commission**

***Benediction**

Martin Lifer

***Hymn #205** (vv.1 & 3) *Away in a Manger*

+ Hymn on The Hill # 206 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Dark-ness flies, all is light;
 3. Si - lent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light Ra -
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Won-drous star, lend thy light;

Round you vir - gin mo-ther and child! Ho - ly In-fant so ten-der and mild,
 Shep-herds hear the an - gels sing, "Al - le - lu - ia! hail the King!
 diant beams from Thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem-ing
 With the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.



**The congregation is invited to stand.*

+Weather permitting – We will gather outside for our church family’s traditional Christmas Eve singing on The Hill of Silent Night, Holy Night. If you are able, please pick up one of our “Christmas Candles” and join us to sing and then for a moment of fellowship and Christmas greetings on The Hill.