



**Dr. Jimmy Lee Dodd**

February 23, 1936 – November 2, 2023

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**Psalm 23**

*(A Psalm of David)*

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.  
He restores my soul.*

*He leads me in paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for You are with me:  
Your rod and your staff – they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and  
I shall dwell in the House of the LORD forever.*



**FIRST**  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**CHURCH**  
STARKVILLE

**A Service to the Glory of  
Our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ,  
and in Thanksgiving for  
the Life and Faith of**

**Jimmy Lee Dodd**

**Monday, February 12, 2024  
11:00 a.m.**

**A Service to the Glory of Our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ,  
and in Thanksgiving for the Life and Faith of  
Jimmy Lee Dodd**

(February 23, 1936 – November 2, 2023)

**PRELUDE**

Jennifer Blackbourn

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Dr. Martin Lifer, Pastor

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION**

**\*HYMN #447**

*It Is Well with My Soul*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Pastor Lifer

**EULOGIES**

David Dodd  
Tribute Video  
Becky Davie

**SCRIPTURE**

**GOSPEL WORD OF OUR SURE HOPE IN THE RISEN CHRIST**

Pastor Lifer

**\*HYMN #543**

*Nearer My God to Thee*

**\*PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION and  
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

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RECESSIONAL**

Jennifer Blackbourn, organ

*\*Congregation Standing*

May our Lord bless you, as we trust in his grace and thank Him for his disciple, Jimmy Lee Dodd, in this special service of worship. We invite you to join us, as well, promptly following this service, for a **brief Interment Service at Odd Fellows Cemetery, Starkville.**

In addition to thanking you for being with them today, the family is deeply grateful for your love and support over the past several months.

The family also thanks the following **Honorary Pallbearers: Charlie Weatherly; Frank Ingels; Alex Romanoff; Charles Dobson; Ed Nesmith; and Joe Moorehead.** *Some are unable to attend today's service.*

Dr. Jimmy Lee Dodd, (87), of Starkville, Mississippi, passed away of natural causes November 2, 2023, with his loving children at his side in Huntsville, AL. Jimmy was born to Hiram Wesley "Jim" and Julia Cook Dodd

on February 23, 1936, in West Blocton, AL, even though the family home was in Monroe County, MS, near Aberdeen. He was delivered by his mid-wife grandmother. He grew to be a talented scholar and athlete who achieved recognition for both before graduating from Aberdeen High School in 1954. Awarded an athletic scholarship to Mississippi State University (MSU), Jimmy lettered in both football and track before graduating with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1958. His many MSU accolades included Mr. MSU, co-captain of the football team, All-SEC and Academic All-American in football, M- Club President, and MSU Hall of Fame inductee (1979). He was selected to play in both the North vs South "Blue-Grey" football game and the "Senior Bowl." During their senior year at MSU, Aberdeen celebrated the accomplishments of Jimmy and his life-long friend and co-captain, Molly Halbert, by declaring a "Halbert-Dodd Day" with a parade and banquet. The most impactful event on Jimmy's life from his time at MSU was when he met the love of his life, Sarah Johnson, who happened to share his birthday, only three years later.

Jimmy and Sarah married on August 29, 1959, in the First Presbyterian Church in Starkville where they remained faithful members for the rest of their lives. Jimmy continued his education, earning a master's degree in electrical engineering from MSU in 1962. During that time, he and Sarah had their first two children, Lee Donovan "Donnie", and Sarah Rebekah "Becky." Jimmy then served as City Engineer in Aberdeen for a short time before returning to school and completing his PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Texas in Austin in 1967. During his time in Austin, Jimmy and Sarah welcomed their third child, David. After earning his PhD, Dr. Dodd returned to MSU where he taught in the Electrical Engineering Department for over 30 years before retiring. Jimmy was not only an educator, but also an avid farmer and beekeeper. He helped his father farm row crops, livestock, and a large vegetable garden in Monroe County. He also raised his own cattle in Oktoc with his farming partner, Dr. Charles Ivy. Jimmy and his dear friend and MSU office mate, Dr. Frank Ingels, worked multiple summers at various research institutions, including Los Alamos National Labs in New Mexico, Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque and Boeing/NASA in Huntsville,

Jimmy cherished family and friends. He was a loyal friend who always stood with friends and family during their hardest life struggles. He maintained childhood and college friendships through frequent reunions. Jimmy treasured the football reunions that he and Charlie Weatherly coordinated for the MSU football teams led by coaches Darrell Royal and Wade Walker. He loved to swap stories and laugh with the "Local Dawgs" during their monthly breakfast and lunch gatherings. Jimmy and Sarah also loved to travel. In addition to multiple "Starkville Bus Tours" to domestic destinations, they visited the Holy Land, traced the Apostle Paul's journeys in Turkey and Greece, and explored Scotland.

Jimmy was a loving husband, patient, and tender caregiver for Sarah during decades of liver disease until her death in 2013. Recognizing the need for blood donation from Sarah's surgeries, he began donating blood continually for decades and was recognized in the region as a top blood donor. After retiring, he volunteered and ultimately coordinated an AARP free tax preparation service for the low income and elderly in Starkville and Columbus.

After Sarah passed away, Jimmy found love again in 2014 with Sylvia West Love. Since Sylvia was also an Aberdeen High School (AHS) graduate, she and Jimmy had a lot in common. Their first date was to an AHS class reunion. They became inseparable and looked after one another until her passing in September 2022. Jimmy was preceded in death by his loving wife Sarah, his dear companion Sylvia Love, son Donnie Dodd, grandson Calvin Davie, his parents and three siblings Albert Dodd (Doris) of Ft Walton Beach, Florida, Helen Pruitt of Aberdeen, and Edna Kendall (Jack) of Huntsville, and his nephew, Dale Pruitt of Aberdeen.

He is survived by his daughter Becky Davie (Jim) of Fall City, WA, son David Dodd (Debbie) of Huntsville, grandson Johnny Dodd, granddaughters Lauren Kate Dodd, Lilly Davie Ralstin (Rob), Jane Davie and Bella Davie, nieces Margaret Taylor (Lex) of Louisville, MS., JJ Shoemake (Jason) of Huntsville, nephews Wayne Pruitt and Lamar Pruitt (Tiffany) both of Aberdeen, Wes Dodd (Elaine) of Madison, MS, Wes Kendall (Suzanne) of Huntsville., great granddaughters Stevie and Quinn Ralstin and great grandson Jack Ralstin, and many extended cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends.