

FOR UNTO US A



Child is Born



ADVENT 2018

For God's glory, we are

committed to equipping Christians

to worship God and to reach Birmingham

to reach the world for Christ.

Briarwood

Presbyterian Church, PCA



Celebration of Worship

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP - December 2, 2018

Worship Leaders

Dr. Harry L. Reeder III, Pastor/Teacher

Mr. Bruce Stallings, Executive Pastor

Rev. Daniel Cason, Pianist

Dr. John Haines, Worship Pastor

Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist

Please adjust all electronic devices so as not to interrupt the service.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation... Psalm 40:9

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

"What Child Is This?/Coventry Carol" (arr. Smith/Snyder)

Laurie Borland, flute

As the prophets of old cried out among Your people who were weary and downcast, yearning for the coming promised Messiah, so today Your call, rings out through the proclamation of your Word, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" Oh Lord, speak to my heart during this season of grace as You spoke to Your prophets and saints. Allow me to fix my gaze upon Christ—Redeemer and Savior of His people—and to relive the joy of His blessed Advent.

The Choral Introit

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

The Ike Reeder family

***The Greeting of Grace and Peace**

***The Processional Carol of Ascents**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Rutter)

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Psalm 98:1a

The Presentation and Consecration of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

The Choral Offering of Worship *"And the Glory of the Lord" (from Handel's Messiah)*

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it.

For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. - Isaiah 40:5

*The Confession of Truth

Matthew 1:21-23; John 1:14

*The Season of Worship through the Carols of Christmas

"The First Noel"

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

...for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Acts 20:27

*The Prayer of Illumination

*†The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

I. Advent in Biblical Perspective

Isaiah and the Coming of Christ

"The Glory Immanuel—The God of Glory with Us"

Isaiah 7:10-14

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

...that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:6

*The Pastoral Benediction

*The Congregational Affirmation

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice" Carol 151 vv. 2, 3

The Postlude

"Blessed Be the God of Israel" (Williams)

* The congregation is requested to stand, if able.

† K4-3rd grade dismiss to the Children's Auditorium for Children's Worship.

Following the 8:00 service, Children's Worship participants will be escorted to their Sunday School rooms.

Following the 10:55 service, please pick up K4-3rd grade children in the Children's Auditorium.

A Prayer Team is available following both morning services just to the right of the pulpit platform.

Large-print copies of the Order of Worship and audio receivers for the hearing impaired are available at the Information Center. The 8:00 a.m. service is also "signed" each week in the Worship Center.

Both Sunday morning services are broadcast live on WLJR 88.5 FM, and the 10:55 a.m. service video is also available online at briarwood.org/livetv.

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Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version.



Fellowship of Believers

THE EVENING SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP - 6:00 P.M.

"The Carols of Christmas"

Children's Choirs

followed by Diaconal gifts

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord. *The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep Your words. I entreat Your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to Your promise.* (Psalm 119:57, 58)

Pray for our hearts to lead us to share God's love with each visitor who comes to our Walk through Nativity this week. Pray for good weather and for the safety of all involved, both our members and our guests.

Missions Prayer Focus—Praise God for the new relationships formed with international students, scholars, and families at Briarwood's International Christmas Party this past Friday. Pray they will develop and deepen so that the gospel may be both spoken and lived out in a clear and genuine way. (*The flag of Alabama is featured in today's worship service.*)

"Continue steadfastly in prayer..." Colossians 4:2a

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

Today is the last chance to purchase a poinsettia for the Worship Center in memory or honor of someone special this Christmas. Cost is \$20 per dedication. To order, use envelopes at the Info Desk or go online at briarwood.org/poinsettia.

The Walk Through Nativity is this Wed., Dec. 5; Thurs., Dec. 6; and Fri., Dec. 7 from 6:45–8:45 p.m. each night. You are invited to experience one of the most fun, creative, impactful annual events at Briarwood. Each year our church family shares the story of our Savior's birth, life, death, and resurrection with thousands of guests from throughout central Alabama. This is both an outreach opportunity as well as a memory-making one for your family, friends, and neighbors. Come be a part of one of our favorite Christmas traditions!

Do you enjoy hosting, serving, and making others feel welcome? Consider joining the Embers to a Flame Conference volunteer team for this Jan. 17–20 event! Contact Kim Vice at kvice@briarwood.org or 776-5399.

Our Church Family

Duty Elders for Anointing Services: Class of 2018

Serving in the Nursery today: Hearts & Homes

Hospitalized: Charley Clark, Harriette Morgan, Lauren Forbes, Donna Gray, Tom Lile, Bob Turnbull, Nancy Scott

We rejoice with JD and Cierra Bragan on the birth of their son, Lionel 'Leo' David Bragan, on Nov. 16.

Our love and sympathy to Joy Blazer and family on the death of her brother, Johnny Merelo, on Nov. 20; to Jonathan Jeff and family on the death of his grandmother, Rosemary Hooper, on Nov. 21; to Steve Jones and family on the death his grandmother, Alice Jones, on Nov. 24; to Nancy Battles and family on the death of her father, Wendell M. Jones, on Nov. 25; and to Jean Kidd, Natalie Kidd and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Eunice Jackson, on Nov. 26.

Announcements

Join our celebration and worship this Advent Season. Many people are open to visiting a church at this time of year who otherwise might not. Think about those you can invite. See the full list of events here at briarwood.org/advent.

The 2019 Budget Information Meeting will be held today at 5:00 p.m. in A105. Members of the Budget Committee will be present to answer your questions.

Church Revitalization Ministry Prayer—You are invited to gather for prayer today at 5:00 p.m. in W202. All are welcome.

The Christmas Code—This Advent devotional recommended by Pastor Reeder will lead you from Dec. 1 to Christmas Day and is now available in the Bookstore for \$3 (includes tax). Drop by today between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to get your copy.

Briarwood Christian Bookstore—The Bookstore's holiday hours are Mon.–Fri. from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. through Dec. 21. Regular Sun. hours are 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Come do your Christmas shopping with us!

December in the Nursery—SIGN-UP is needed for any Sunday night event in Dec. including the 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Services. Make reservations at briarwood.org/nursery.

Christmas Eve Nursery Volunteers Needed—If you are willing to help keep our little ones for the 5:00 service, contact Alison Craig at acraig@briarwood.org.

Persecuted Church Prayer—Sun., Dec. 9 in G103 at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us to pray for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Canned Food Drive—Sun., Dec. 9. Leave bags of canned goods/non-perishables behind your vehicle to be picked up while you are in church to support Love in Action Ministries.

All are invited—Sun., Dec. 16 Todd and Cindy Sproull, supported ministry partners serving in Washington with the Lummi Indians, are hosting a ministry update luncheon at the Caroline House from 12:30–2:00 p.m. We must have your RSVP to nmt@briarwood.org or 776-5243.

Birmingham Boys Choir—All are invited to a free concert of Christmas favorites, Thurs., Dec. 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" and other sacred Christmas songs will be featured. Don't miss this chance to hear this nationally-renowned choir!

Seminary Jan Term—Eschatology on Jan. 3–5 (Thurs.–Sat. at Briarwood). Doctrine of Salvation on Jan. 10–12 (Thurs.–Sat. in Huntsville and via video conference). Church History in America on Jan. 10–12 (Thurs.–Sat. in Montgomery and via video conference). Go to bts.education or call 776-5356.

Trailblazers Spring Trip—Join us Apr. 8–13 as we travel to Savannah and Amelia, Jekyll and St. Simon Islands. For details, see the brochure at briarwood.org/trailblazers or email Sharon at sjohnston@briarwood.org.

Job Openings—See a complete listing with details at briarwood.org/employment.

Young Business Leaders Office Manager. Full-time position to manage banquets and outreach efforts; financial reporting. Ability to use Shelby and Microsoft Office essential. Email résumé to Phil Reddick at preddick@yb1.org.

Administrative Assistant for Briarwood International Outreach. Seeking a Briarwood member for a part-time position in the Missions office. Knowledge of Microsoft Office is necessary. Please send résumé or email inquiries to Heather McDougall at hmcDougall@briarwood.org.

College Women's Coordinator. Full-time ministry staff position requiring the ability to shepherd, disciple, and connect with college-aged women. Contact Rachel Laster at rlaster@briarwood.org to submit résumé.

Grounds Helper. Full-time position; includes benefits. Contact Robert at 776-5234 or rlifton@briarwood.org.

Welcome, Guest

We're delighted you are worshipping with us during this Advent season. The entire Briarwood family is eager to greet you, answer any questions you may have and minister to you in any way. After the service, please stop by the foyer so that we may offer you a small gift to acknowledge your presence with us. I pray that this service of worship will be all about Him and not about us, and that it will draw you close to the Lord of the universe.

For Christ, His Cross and His Crown,

Harry
Harry L. Reeder III, Pastor/Teacher

Calendar of the Week

For a full listing of calendar events, visit our website at briarwood.org/calendar.

* Nursery provided - please make weekday reservations at briarwood.org/nursery.
Special needs care available - call June Cork, 776-5291.

SUNDAY	* 8:00 a.m.	Morning Worship - Worship Center
	* 8:00 a.m.	Intercessory Prayer - Prayer Room
	* 9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	* 10:55 a.m.	Morning Worship - Worship Center
	* 10:55 a.m.	Intercessory Prayer - Prayer Room
	1:30 p.m.	Japanese Worship Service - G101
	4:30 p.m.	Chapel Choir Rehearsal - M208
	* 6:00 p.m.	Children's Choir Program - Worship Center
	6:00 p.m.	Raiders/BYG Small Groups - The Barn
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MONDAY	9:30 a.m.	L.O.V.E. Ministry - Flower Room
	6:15 p.m.	CMMA Couples Fellowship - Walkers'
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TUESDAY	6:30 p.m.	CMMA Singles Fellowship - Simpsons'
	6:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - M208
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WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m.	Dr. Barker's Bible Study - A105
	6:45 p.m.	Walk Through Nativity - Church grounds
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THURSDAY	9:30 a.m.	Prayer for Our Nation - Women: Prayer Rm/Men: M200
	6:45 p.m.	Walk Through Nativity - Church grounds
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FRIDAY	6:45 p.m.	Walk Through Nativity - Church grounds
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SATURDAY	7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfasts - Giddens', Thomases'

