

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP - December 9, 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

Bless God in the great congregation, the LORD, O You who are of Israel's fountain! Psalm 68:26

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

"Gentle Mary, Laid Her Head" (Cook)

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of Your love and our minds are searching for the light of Your Word. We humbly confess our sins to You in these quiet moments before Your throne, and joyfully receive the full pardon offered through our Savior's atoning blood. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

The Choral Introit

"Agnus Dei" (Smith)
Youth Choir

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

Noah and Rachel Despinasse

The Gospel Word of Salvation

The Greeting of Grace and Peace

***The Carols of Ascents**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Carol 124
"Joy to the World" Carol 125

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near... Isaiah 55:6

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

My tongue will sing of Your Word, for all Your commandments are right. Psalm 119:172

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

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
II Corinthians 9:7

The Choral Offering of Worship

“O Holy Night” (Adam, arr. Little)
Chancel and Youth Choirs

*The Confession of Truth

Matthew 4:12–17

*The Season of Worship through the Carols of Christmas

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” Carol 133 · “Once in Royal David’s City”

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD

...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God... Ephesians 6:17

*The Prayer of Illumination

*†The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9

The Exposition of God’s Word

Pastor Reeder

II. Advent in Biblical Perspective

Isaiah and the Coming of Christ

“Post Tenebras Lux—Out of Darkness, Light”

Isaiah 9

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:3

*The Pastoral Benediction

*The Congregational Affirmation

“The Advent of Our God” Carol 120

The Postlude

“Love Came Down at Christmas” (Evans)

* 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.

“Glory to the Newborn King”

Briarwood Ballet

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord. *For the LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want.* (Psalm 23)

Pray for all mankind to awaken to the call of God to receive His Son, Jesus, as Lord and Savior.

Missions Prayer Focus—Pray for those who work at Restoration Academy as they seek to provide an excellent, Christ-centered education in Fairfield, Ala. Pray specifically for teachers Joey Braddock and Bill Payne, and for Executive Director Brian Goessling. (*The flag of Birmingham is featured in today's worship service.*)

“Continue steadfastly in prayer...” Colossians 4:2a

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

Do you love wrapping Christmas presents? Use your talents to help wrap gifts for Grace House Ministries this holiday season at the Riverchase Galleria on Dec. 13, 14 and 18. Go to briarwood.org/women and look under Outreach.

Are you interested in taking a seminary class? BTS is offering several classes this Jan Term—Eschatology Jan. 3–5 (Thurs.–Sat. at Briarwood); Doctrine of Salvation Jan. 10–12 (Thurs.–Sat. in Huntsville and via video conference); and Church History in America Jan. 10–12 (Thurs.–Sat. in Montgomery and via video conference). Go to bts.education or call 776-5356.

Experience the true meaning of Christmas through the Advent events here at Briarwood. Next Sunday's Christmas Festival at 6:00 p.m. features the Music, Ballet and Drama Ministries; and three Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 5:00, 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. provide opportunity for all to worship on that most blessed night. See details on the Briarwood App or at briarwood.org/advent, and be sure to invite family and friends!

Our Church Family

Duty Elders for Anointing Services: Class of 2018

Serving in the Nursery today: Family Life

Hospitalized: Tom Lile, Charley Clark, Bill Dumas, Jon Gould

We rejoice with Chad and Christa Brogan on the adoption of their son, Andres, and daughter, Sara, on Nov. 28; and with Matt and Anna Heard on the birth of their daughter, Mary Helen, on Nov. 29.

Our love and sympathy to Justin and Anna Beth Hild and family on the death of their grandfather, Jim Hild, on Nov. 27; to Gary Floyd, Benjamin, Ragan, Kathleen, Rachel and Bethany Floyd and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Johnny Floyd, on Nov. 28; and to Marla McCully and family on the death her grandmother, Carla Sanderson, on Nov. 30.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Mon., Dec. 24 in the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

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.	Ballet Program - Worship Center
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MONDAY	9:30 a.m.	L.O.V.E. Ministry - Flower Room
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TUESDAY		No activities
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WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m.	Dr. Barker's Bible Study - A105
	6:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - M208
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THURSDAY	9:30 a.m.	Prayer for Our Nation - Women: Prayer Rm/Men: M200
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FRIDAY		No activities
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SATURDAY	7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfasts - Giddens', Thomases'
	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Worship Center



Christmas Festival
December 16 • 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services
December 24
Family Candlelight Service • 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Candlelight Communion Service • 11:00 p.m.

Announcements

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

Attention Officers—A Joint Meeting of the Session and Diaconate is scheduled for Tues., Dec. 11 beginning with dinner in the FH at 6:00 p.m.

Stewardship—When giving gifts of securities and to insure your contribution is processed accurately and efficiently, please notify Matt Moore at 776-5205 at the time of your gift.

Christmas Shop With Us—The Bookstore will be open special holiday hours Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. through Dec. 21, and Sun. from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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.

24th Annual Meadow Brook Runs—Sat., Dec. 15 to benefit the Jesus Video Project of Alabama. Start times: 5K at 9:00 a.m. and 1-mile Fun Run at 10:00 a.m. Walkers and pets on leash welcome. Go to meadowbrookruns.org.

Ambassador Holiday Soccer Camp—Dec. 27-28 from 9:00 a.m.- noon. All ages 6-12 register at 776-5114 or briarwoodsoccer.com. Cost \$60. Open to the public.

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

All are invited—Sun., Dec. 16 Todd and Cindy Sproull, supported ministry partners serving in Washington state 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.

Dementia Patient Caregivers Support Group—Come Tues., Dec. 18 from 11:00 a.m.-noon in A201 for sharing concerns and practical strategies. Call the Pastoral Care at 776-5227.

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!

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

Birmingham Rally and March for Life—Sat., Jan. 12 at 10:45 a.m. at Brother Bryan Park (22nd St. S. at 10th Ave). Rain or shine; families welcome!

Pocket Change deposited into wall containers around the church is used by the Executive Mercy Ministry monthly to distribute food for those in need.

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@ybl.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.