

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP - December 16, 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

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. Acts 2:44

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

"In the Bleak Midwinter" (Holst)

Our gracious Lord, Your coming was prophesied by many throughout the history of Israel, yet how sudden Your appearance seemed! It encourages our hearts that the announcement of Your birth first came to the lowliest of men, poor shepherds, who were tending their flocks in the fields outside the lowliest villages, Bethlehem. And like the shepherds, may we, being lowly in spirit and weighed down by our sin and the cares of life, leave everything and run with haste to worship the Savior of the world, who came to free His people from their sins. And may we, too, glorify and praise God for all we have seen and heard! Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly!

The Choral Introit "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" (from Handel's *Messiah*)
Baylee Wichlan, soloist

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

The Michael Wichlan family

The Gospel Word of Salvation

The Greeting of Grace and Peace

***The Carols of Ascents**

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" Carol 131

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

They will call upon My name, and I will answer them. Zechariah 13:9

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD! Psalm 150:6

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

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
II Corinthians 9:6

The Choral Offering of Worship

“Ten Thousand Joys” (Marsh)
Audrey Jowers and Darryl Stracner, soloists

*The Confession of Truth

Luke 2:10-11

*The Season of Worship through the Carols of Christmas

“Angels We Have Heard on High” Carol 132 · “There’s Something About that Name”

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 9:6, 7

The Exposition of God’s Word

Pastor Reeder

III. Advent in Biblical Perspective

Isaiah and the Coming of Christ

“So, What Is His Name?”

Isaiah 9:6, 7

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

“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” Carol 127 vv.1, 5

The Postlude

“Gloria” (Angell)

* 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.

“For Unto Us a Child Is Born”

Briarwood Christmas Festival

featuring

Briarwood Music, Ballet, and Drama Ministries

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord. *Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!* (Psalm 100:1, 2)

Pray for Christians around the world to rise up and share the love of Jesus with people whom God has placed in their paths. Rise, children of God, rise!

Missions Prayer Focus—Pray for Norman and Julie Beck working with the Cherokee Nation in North Carolina. Pray for the growth of their Grace Community church plant, the friendships they have developed, and for God to be evident in the life of each student attending their youth group. (*The flag of North Carolina is featured in today's worship service.*)

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

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

All are invited to the Birmingham Boys Choir's free concert of Christmas favorites on 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!

Invite your friends and family to one of our Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 5:00, 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. This will be a great night of worship to celebrate that most blessed night. See details on the Briarwood App or at briarwood.org/advent.

Kick off 2019 with a seminary class! BTS is offering several Jan Term classes—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.

Our Church Family

Duty Elders for Anointing Services: Class of 2018

Serving in the Nursery today: Legacy

Hospitalized: Charley Clark, Bill Dumas, Bob Turnbull, James Lee, Kathy Stallings, Tom Lile

Our love and sympathy to Margaret Evans, Bruce Evans and family on the death of their sister and aunt, Janet Wallis, on Dec. 2; to Elizabeth Ray and family on the death of her mother, Marie Neighbors, on Dec. 6; to John Hunt, Ruth Ramos and family on the death of their mother, Lois Hunt, on Dec. 12; and John Stein III, Jack and Nathan Stein and family on the death of their father and grandfather, John Stein Jr., on Dec. 12.

As 2018 comes to an end, the Accounting Office will close for the year Dec. 31 at 5:00 p.m. Contributions received in the mail must be postmarked or cancelled by Dec. 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2018. Contributions with Jan. 2019 postmarks will be considered 2019 contributions.

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
	4:00 p.m.	Chapel Choir Rehearsal - M208
	* 6:00 p.m.	Christmas Festival - 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		No activities
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THURSDAY	9:30 a.m.	Prayer for Our Nation - Women: Prayer Rm/Men: M200
	7:00 p.m.	Birmingham Boys Choir - Worship Center
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FRIDAY		No activities
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SATURDAY	7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfasts - Giddens', Thomases'

Sun., Dec. 23 Schedule

Please note the church's regular Sunday schedule will be observed on Dec. 23 with the exception of the evening service which will not be held in preparation for our three services of worship on Christmas Eve at 5:00, 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.

Announcements

Ask the Pastor Vlog—Watch Pastor Reeder’s explanation of and invitation to Advent activities here at Briarwood now at briarwood.org/askthepastor.

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.

Wrap Gifts for Grace House—Help this holiday season at the Riverchase Galleria on Dec. 18. Go to briarwood.org/women and look under Outreach.

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

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.

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.

PCA Christmas Offering will be taken at Christmas Eve Services. Through the Ministerial Relief Fund, The Christmas Offering provides monthly supplemental income to our retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows and dependent children who have low income and meet the Relief Fund guidelines. Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews on Christmas Eve for your gift.

December in the Nursery—SIGN-UP is needed for any Sunday night event in December 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.

Stocking Stuffers—Give the man in your life a ticket to the Sportsman’s Blast, coming Feb. 15. Popular speaker Dr. John Morgan will be our guest. Tickets now in the Bookstore and online at briarwood.org/blast. Give the woman in your life a ticket to the women’s retreat in Huntsville, coming Feb. 1–3. Tickets available now at briarwood.org/wocretreat.

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.

Briarwood Christian School Sneak Peek—Briarwood members are invited to tour the school’s kindergarten and elementary programs and see this blessed ministry of the Church. Contact Kelly Mooney, Admissions Dir. at 776-5812 or kmooney@bcsk12.org.

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!

Women’s Retreat—Feb. 1–3, 2019 in Huntsville, Ala. For more information and to register online before Jan. 9, go to briarwood.org/wocretreat.

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.

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.