

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP - December 23, 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

For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them. Matthew 18:20

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

"Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts" (Saint-Saëns)

Our glorious Savior and Redeemer, when the angels split open the skies on that night long ago over Bethlehem, their message was that of "Peace on earth!" Yet today, our lives are fiercely fragmented and we are prone to wander from the very One who came to fulfill this promise to give us everlasting peace. Remind us anew and afresh this day that the message the angels brought that night is one that can only be fulfilled as we yield our lives completely to You, Immanuel, finding in You alone our complete and eternal pardon. As we prepare to celebrate Your birth, O Lord, may we enjoy the peace we have with God through Your glorious redeeming grace, and may we be given a foretaste of the eternal peace that is yet to come.

The Bell Choral Introit

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Briarwood Bell Choir

Dr. Jonathan Kalehoff, Director

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

The Stephen Steiner family

The Gospel Word of Salvation

The Greeting of Grace and Peace

***The Processional Carols of Ascents**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Carol 145

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

...I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people... 1 Timothy 2:1

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

Praise the LORD! It is good to sing praises to our God... Psalm 147:1a

The Presentation and Consecration of God's Tithe 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

"Mary, Did You Know?" (Lowry/Greene)
Brooke McGehee, Katie Payne, Abby Piell

*The Confession of Truth

Westminster Shorter Catechism, qq. 21, 22

*The Season of Worship through the Carols of Christmas

"How Great Our Joy!" Carol 144 · *"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"* Carol 138

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of the Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. I Timothy 4:13

*The Prayer of Illumination

*†The Old and New Testament Readings

Isaiah 11:1, 2; Matthew 1:1-17

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

IV. Advent in Biblical Perspective

Isaiah and the Coming of Christ

"Stumps and Roots"

Isaiah 11:1, 2; Matthew 1:1-17

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

For the Love of Christ controls us... II Corinthians 5:14a

*The Pastoral Benediction

*The Congregational Affirmation

"Doxology" (tune: *Veni, Emmanuel*)

The Postlude

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" (English Carol)

* 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

No Evening Service

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord. *For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulders and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* (Isaiah 9:6)

Pray for family and friends this week to remember the birth of our loving Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to share His gift of salvation with people they know.

Missions Prayer Focus—Bruce and Pam Sinclair in Kampala, Uganda, teach at colleges and a seminary to train African pastors, church leaders, missionaries, and Christian workers. Pray as they prepare their students for various roles in effective gospel ministry and for them to be effective mentors to elders and their wives in their church. (*The flag of Uganda is featured in today's worship service.*)

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

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

Join us Christmas Eve for Family Candlelight Services at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. and the Communion Candlelight service at 11:00 p.m. Our Candlelight services are a wonderful way to celebrate and contemplate the birth of our Lord, and they conclude with the entire Worship Center lit by candlelight. Bring others with you to meet Jesus this Christmas!

Give to the PCA Christmas Offering during the Christmas Eve Services this year. 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 in the pews on Christmas Eve for your gift.

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

MidWeek and Men's and Women's Studies will begin the week of January 7. See all the upcoming opportunities online now, at briarwood.org/midweek, briarwood.org/men and briarwood.org/women or see the BriarwoodPCA app.

Our Church Family

Duty Elders for Anointing Services: Class of 2018

Serving in the Nursery today: Encounter, REAL Life

Hospitalized: Doug Adair, Bill Dumas, Tom Lile, Bill Moulton, David Robinson, Al Guthrie, Nancy Scott, Bobbie Ledbetter

If you are willing to help keep our little ones for the 5:00 service, we are in need of Christmas Eve nursery volunteers. Contact Alison Craig at acraig@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 No Evening Worship Service
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MONDAY	* 5:00 p.m.	Church and school offices closed Family Candlelight - Worship Center
	* 7:00 p.m.	Family Candlelight - Worship Center
	11:00 p.m.	Communion Candlelight - Worship Center
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TUESDAY		Merry Christmas Church and school offices closed
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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
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FRIDAY		No activities
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SATURDAY	7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfasts - Giddens', Thomases'

As 2018 Comes to an End

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.

Announcements

- Join us today for Pastor Reeder's book signing!** He will be personalizing his new book, *3DLeadership* at the Bookstore right after the 8:00 and 10:55 a.m. services.
- Ask the Pastor Vlog**—Watch Pastor Reeder's explanation of and invitation to Advent activities here at Briarwood now at briarwood.org/askthepastor.
- December in the Nursery**—SIGN-UP is needed for the 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Services. Make reservations at briarwood.org/nursery.
- The sacrament of the Lord's Supper** will be celebrated on Mon., Dec. 24 in the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service and morning worship on Dec. 30. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.
- 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.
- The church and school offices** will be closed Mon., Dec. 24 and Tues., Dec. 25 for Christmas; then again on Tues., Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday.
- The church gates** will close at 2:00 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 23 and re-open at 3:00 p.m. on Mon., Dec. 24. They will close following the 11:00 p.m. communion service, and re-open on Wed., Dec. 26 at 5:30 a.m. On Mon., Dec. 31, gates will close at 9:00 p.m. and re-open on Wed., Jan. 2 at 5:30 a.m.
- 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.
- 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 online to bts.education or call 776-5356.
- Register for CONNECT** beginning Jan 9—If you have a K4-3rd grader who plans to attend CONNECT this semester please register online at briarwood.org/connect.
- Counseling in the Local Church II** begins Wed., Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in A209; taught by Dr. Stephen Cloud. Build your knowledge to conduct more effective personal ministry. Contact 776-5227 or altadena@briarwood.org for details.
- GriefShare**—Begins Wed., Jan. 9 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in W202. If you or someone you know is adjusting to the death of a loved one, come to this 13-session class. For more details, call 776-5227.
- Pastor's Inquirers' Class** for newcomers and prospective members begins Jan 13. It includes two Sunday morning classes (Jan. 13 and 20), one Wed. night class (Jan. 16) and a luncheon on Jan. 27 for those joining. Attending does not obligate you to join. For information or to sign up, call 776-5208 or email wlong@briarwood.org.
- Yucatan Spring Break Trip**—Join Olan and Lynna Stubbs Mar. 25-30 to serve on this short-term mission trip involving construction projects and hosting a VBS. Go to reel-life.org/trips/yucatan for details.
- 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.