

Good News of Great Joy



"Fear not, for behold,

I bring you good news of great joy

that will be for all the people."

Luke 2:10





Celebration of Worship

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP - December 1, 2019

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

Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I among them. Matthew 18:21

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Praise Team

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 Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

Gary, Ashleigh and Coleman Durbin (8:00)

Matt, Shelbi and Elliot Wambles (10:55)

***The Greeting of Grace and Peace**

***The Carol of Ascents**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” Carol 133

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

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

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 12:6

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

Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. Malachi 3:10

The Choral Offering of Worship

“Breath of Heaven” (arr. Hart)

Kimberly Goolsby, soloist

*The Confession of Truth

Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 1:26-33

*The Season of Worship through the Carols of Christmas

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” Carol 131

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of the Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 1 Tim. 4:13

*The Prayer of Illumination

*†The New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1

The Exposition of God’s Word

Pastor Reeder

I. Advent in Biblical Perspective

Life Portraits from the Nativity

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Hebrews 1; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38, 2:8-21

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

“Angels We have Heard on High” Carol 132 v. 1

The Postlude

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (Wesley)

* The congregation is requested to stand, if able.

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

† 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.

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.

“Rejoice!”

Children’s Choirs

followed by Diaconal gifts

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord. *Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts!* (Psalm 148:1, 2)

Pray for the many details remaining for our Walk Through Nativity Dec. 11-13. Pray for the health of those serving and for the additional volunteers needed for this outreach.

Mission Prayer Focus: Pray for our Briarwood International Outreach Christmas Party on Dec. 6, as we host international UAB students and families living in Birmingham. Pray that those who have never heard the gospel before will have their hearts opened as we tell them the good news of Jesus. (*The flag of Birmingham is featured in today's worship service.*)

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

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

Today is the deadline for Christmas poinsettias! Consider ordering one in memory or honor of someone for the Worship Center. Cost is \$20 per dedication. Order online at briarwood.org/poinsettia, or use envelopes at the Info Desk.

Bring your bags or box of donations for the Canned Food Drive next Sun., Dec. 8. Leave canned goods/non-perishables behind your vehicle while you are in church to be picked up by the Mercy Ministry to support Love in Action Ministries.

Ponder in front of the manger, imagine yourself as a shepherd, or reflect beside the cross as you walk through the Briarwood Walk Through Nativity. As one of Birmingham's most poignant Christmas depictions, it is an exciting, memorable way to share the story of our Savior's birth with friends and family. For three days—Dec. 11, 12, and 13 from 6:45-8:45 p.m.—thousands of people will stroll the quarter-mile walk of 14 scenes with live actors and animals. Come by the FH afterwards to chat over coffee, hot chocolate and cookies. See a video at briarwood.org/wtn. Yard signs and postcards are available at the church exits. Volunteers are still needed; see announcement on the back for details.

Our Church Family

Duty Elders for Anointing Services: Class of 2020

Serving in the Nursery today: Teambuilders/Women Imp World

Hospitalized: Joyce Yancey, Martha Jenks, Elizabeth Jeff, Margaret Mugg, Doris Davis

We rejoice with David and Claire Roebuck on the birth of their daughter, Helen Leone, on Nov. 22; and with Jake and Marjie Doughty on the birth of their daughter, Jolee, on Nov. 24 and with grandparents Dunn and Tina McKelvey.

Our love and sympathy to Gloria, Jennifer and Davis Witt and family on the death of their sister and aunt, Cheryl Hudson Samples, on Nov. 23; to Joyce Ryer and family on the death of her brother, Gene Spence, on Nov. 24; and to Kelly Buck, Riley Phillips Andy Buck and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Lou Isaacson, on Nov. 24.

The flowers in the Worship Center are given to the glory of God in celebration of the birthday of J.G. Cobb, Jr., from his wife, Linda.

Announcements

Advent at Briarwood—Join us in our celebration and worship this Advent Season. See the full list of events at briarwood.org/advent.

New Sunday School quarter begins today. To see a listing of class subjects and teachers, go to briarwood.org/ss or pick up a copy at the information kiosks.

The 2020 Budget Information Meeting will be held tonight at 5:00 p.m. in A105. Members of the Budget Committee will be present to answer your questions.

College Christmas Party—Dec. 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bunns' house (2213 Lynngate Drive). Come for the fun and wear your tacky Christmas outfits.

BYG Laguna Beach Retreat—Dec. 28–Jan. 1, with worship, teaching, and special activities. Get away and be renewed spiritually! Register at briarwood.org/laguna.

Trailblazers Trip—Sept. 2–10. Explore beautiful Tuscany (touring from one hotel). Come to an information meeting Mon., Dec. 2 in FH-A at 4:00 p.m. Contact Dave Matthews at 205-776-5211 or dmatthews@briarwood.org.

College Ministry Lunch—Sun., Dec. 8 at 12:30 p.m. Join us for food and a time of fellowship with other students and College Pastor Max Bunn at the Carlisles' home (3528 Altabrook Drive).

Briarwood Ballet presents The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe—Dec. 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Come see this timeless story of the land of Narnia. Admission is free. Reserve Nursery at briarwood.org/nursery.

Persecuted Church Prayer—Sun., Dec. 8 in G103 at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us to pray for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Foundations Early Learning Center Prayer—Friday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. in A-205. All are welcome to join us to pray for Foundations Early Learning Center in Fairfield.

December Nursery—SIGN-UP needed for any Sunday night event—including the 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve 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.

If you have a “skinny” Christmas tree you no longer want, the Nursery would love to have it! Email Alison Craig at acraig@briarwood.org.

Ambassador Holiday Soccer Camp—Dec. 30–31 from 9:00 a.m.–noon. All ages 6–12 register at 205-776-5114 or briarwoodsoccer.com. Open to the public.

Mommy & Me Ballet classes—Toddlers, come dance with your favorite adult! Begins Thurs., Jan. 16 from 9:30–10:15 a.m. (8 sessions). Go to briarwood.org/ballet/mommy-me.

Briarwood Ballet Adult Classes—New to ballet or want to dust off your ballet slippers? Join the Adult Beginner classes to learn classical ballet in a relaxed environment while getting a great workout. Go to briarwood.org/balletclasses or call 205-776-5284.

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

Administrative Assistant for Briarwood International Outreach. Part-time position for a Briarwood member. Knowledge of MS Office is necessary. Email Heather at hmcdougall@briarwood.org with résumé or inquiries.

Director, Women's Business Leaders. Experienced, business-minded woman needed with a heart for outreach and evangelism. Should have a college degree, fundraising experience and be active in ministry for women. Contact Phil Reddick at preddick@briarwood.org or 205-776-5450.

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, 205-776-5291.

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
MONDAY	* 6:00 p.m.	Children's Choir Program - Worship Center
	6:00 p.m.	BYG and Raiders D-Groups - The Barn
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MONDAY	9:30 a.m.	L.O.V.E. Ministry - Flower Room
	6:15 p.m.	CMMA Monday Night Fellowship - Walkers'
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TUESDAY	6:30 p.m.	CMMA Tuesday Night Fellowship - Simpsons
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WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m.	Dr. Barker's Bible Study - A105
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
	7:00 p.m.	BYG@The Barn - The Barn
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THURSDAY	9:30 a.m.	Pray for Our Nation - Wmn: Brides Rm/Men: Prayer Rm
	7:00 p.m.	Barker Bible Study - Cahaba Ridge (3090 Healthy Way)
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FRIDAY		No activities
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SATURDAY	7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfasts - Giddens', Thomases'

Have you found your place to serve
at the Walk Through Nativity Dec. 11-13?
Volunteers still needed—especially male cast members each
night, parking volunteers and dressers for Friday night.
We also need help unloading sets on Dec. 6 at 3:00 p.m.

To sign up contact Raleigh Macoy at
rmacoy@briarwood.org or 205-776-5251.