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
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP - December 15, 2019

Worship Leaders
Dr. Harry L. Reeder III, Pastor/Teacher
Mr. Bruce Stallings, Executive Pastor
Dr. John Haines, Worship Pastor
Rev. Daniel Cason, Pianist
Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist

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

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE
‘Gather the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words...’ Deuteronomy 4:10

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession
“Christmas Oratorio” (Saint-Saëns)
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 of the lowliest of villages, Bethlehem. May we, like them, 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 then return like them, glorifying and praising God for all we have seen and heard! Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly again!

The Choral Introit
“Glory Be to God” (Bach, arr. Haines)

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading
Nathan, Sarah and Levi McIntosh (8:00)
Morgan, Anna and Cooper Bandy (10:55)

The Gospel Word of Salvation

“The Greeting of Grace and Peace

“The Carol of Ascents
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

THE PETITIONING OF GOD’S PROVIDENCE
O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice... Psalm 5:3

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD’S GLORY
Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation! Psalm 95:1

The Presentation and Consecration of God’s Tithe 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  “Breath of Heaven” (Eaton/Grant, arr. Hart)  Tara Howard, soloist (8:00)  Kimberly Goolsby, soloist (10:55)

*The Confession of Truth  Nicene Creed

*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  And they taught in Judah, having the Book of the Law of the LORD with them. II Chronicles 17:9a

*The Prayer of Illumination


THE CONSECRATION OF GOD’S PEOPLE  The LORD bless you and keep you... Numbers 6:24

The Ministry in Music  “Hallelujah (Light Has Come)”  Elizabeth Jordan, soloist

*The Pastoral Benediction

*The Congregational Affirmation  “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” Carol 127 vv. 1, 5

The Postlude  “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (Montgomery)

* 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/live.

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Fellowship of Believers

THE EVENING SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP - 6:00 P.M.
Praise the Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty. (Psalm 104:1)

Praise God for all those who came to the Walk Through Nativity and for those who prayed to receive Christ. Pray for the seeds planted about Jesus’ love for them to grow fruit of salvation.

Mission Prayer Focus: Linwood Bragan serves as the Executive Director of Crosswinds Foundation for Faith and Culture, focusing on The Invisible Scars Project outreach, which brings the healing power of the Gospel to veterans struggling with PTSD and moral injury. Pray that many veterans will be healed from trauma and guilt so they can live in the freedom of Christ. (The flag of Alabama is featured in today’s worship service.)

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

Opportunities for Ministry and Growth

Briarwood hosts the Birmingham Boys Choir 42nd Annual Christmas Concert on Thurs., Dec. 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Come hear beloved carols of the season by the 150 choristers and 45 dads and granddads. Admission is free.

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.

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.

Our Church Family

Duty Elders for Anointing Services: Class of 2020

Serving in the Nursery today: Kingdom Builders

Hospitalized: Caroline Black, Don Byron, Doris Davis, French Forbes, Barbara Head, Linda Sitton

We rejoice with Nathan and Jessica Ivey on the adoption of their daughter, Joanna Claire, on Dec. 3.

Our love and sympathy to Lynna, Jackson, Haddon, Whit and Sophia Stubbs and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Roy Edwin Bryson, on Dec. 2; to Missi, Ross, Benjamin and Anna Grace Wesson, Rebecca Singleton and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Ann Norris, on Dec. 4; to Joe Loggins and family on the death of his grandfather, Orbin Loggins, on Dec. 4; to Randy and Christian DeRieux and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Jerry Sexton DeRieux, on Dec. 5; to Leon Chadwick, Katie Russell, Caroline Brown, Maggie Richard and family on the death of their father and grandfather, member Pete Chadwick, on Dec. 6; and to Richard, Katherine and Michael O’Neal and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Velma O’Neal, on Dec. 7.
Announcements

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 p.m. service, contact Alison Craig at acraig@briarwood.org.

2020 Personal/Family Devotional—Morning Exercises by Rev. William Jay, recommended by Pastor Reeder, is now in the Bookstore. There is also a One-Year Bible Reading Plan with three options available.

College Ministry Christmas Lunch—Mon., Dec. 16 from 11:30–1:00 p.m. at The Barn. Come catch up with friends and the youth/college staff! Lunch is free.

Dementia Patient Caregivers Support Group—Come Tues., Dec. 17 from 11:00 a.m.–noon in A201 for sharing concerns and practical strategies. Call 205-776-5227 for more info.

25th Annual Meadow Brook Runs—Sat., Dec. 21 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.

Urban Ministry Prayer—Sun., Dec. 22 at 5:00 p.m. in the Bride’s Room. Join us to pray for Urban Hope Community Church and urban ministries in the Birmingham area.

A Service of Carols and Scriptural Meditations—Join the Briarwood Choir and Orchestra Sun., Dec. 22 at 6:00 p.m. in a worship service of favorite carols, songs, and scriptural meditations from the pastoral staff.

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

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.

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.

Stocking Stuffer—Give the man in your life a ticket to the Sportsman’s Blast, coming Feb. 7! Russell Thornberry, TV personality, ordained minister and devoted family man will be our guest. Tickets now in the Bookstore and online at briarwood.org/blast.

Embers to a Flame Conference—Jan. 16–19. Will you be a hospitality volunteer to provide housing and/or transportation to conference attendees and seminary students? Also, volunteers are needed for prayer, manual assembly, and serving meals. To volunteer, contact Kim at kvice@briarwood.org or 205-776-5399.

Family mission trip opportunity—Join us in Costa Rica this March and minister with your kids! Open to families or parent/child. Contact John or Shanna for more info at 205-222-1062 or 205-585-8871.

Unwanted stress because of money issues? Do you want to save more, become debt free, start investing for retirement? Crown ministry is starting a group during MidWeek beginning Jan. 8. Contact 205-776-5211 or dmatthews@briarwood.org to register.

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

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.

Weeknight Gym Supervisor. Briarwood member needed for church gym supervisor from 5:15–8:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from Nov. 11 to Feb. 14. $25/night; minimum age, 17-years-old. If interested in all or most dates, call Scott Hannah at 205-776-5361.

Briarwood Christian School: Openings listed at briarwood.org/employment.
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 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
  * 6:00 p.m. “Hallelujah” Choir and Drama Ministry - Worship Center

MONDAY
9:30 a.m. L.O.V.E. Ministry - Flower Room

TUESDAY
No activities

WEDNESDAY
No activities

THURSDAY
9:30 a.m. Pray for Our Nation - Wmn: Brides Rm/Men: Prayer Rm
7:00 p.m. Birmingham Boys Choir Concert - Worship Center

FRIDAY
No activities

SATURDAY
7:00 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfasts - Giddens’, Thomases’

Year-End Giving

The Accounting Office will close for the year on 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 2019. Contributions with Jan. 2020 postmarks will be considered 2020 contributions.

When giving gifts of securities and to insure your contribution is processed accurately and efficiently, please notify Matt Moore, 205-776-5205, or Catherine Russell, crussell@briarwood.org, at the time of your gift.

email: info@briarwood.org — website: briarwood.org
2200 Briarwood Way – Birmingham, Alabama 35243 – 205-776-5200
III. Advent in Biblical Perspective
Life Portraits from the Nativity
“Shepherds and Wise Men: Jew and Gentile, Rich and Poor”
Matthew 2:1–12, Luke 2:8–21
(page 808, 857 in the ESV pew Bible)

Introduction/Review:

Shepherds in the Fields

Wise Men from the East
Life Takeaways