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
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
**MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP - December 22, 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**
‘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  
“O Holy Night” (Baird)  
Beth Mooney and Laurie Borland, duet

**The Advent Introit**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
Chris Travers and Team

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

Nathan, Jessica and Joanna Ivey (8:00)  
Matt, Morgan and Louise Jaeger (10:55)

The Gospel Word of Salvation

“The Greeting of Grace and Peace

“The Carol of Ascents”

“The First Noel” Carol 136 vv. 1, 2, 6

**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

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9–10

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**Fellowship**

**Opportunities**

If you or someone you know is currently job seeking, remember to check our listing of all current opportunities at the church and at Briarwood Christian School at briarwood.org/employment.

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**Celebration of Worship**

Dr. Nathan Feaser, Director of Music and Worship  
Dr. John Cason, Director of Music Education  
Dr. Beverly Frasier, Director of Youth and Children’s Music  
Rev. Antonio D. Smith, Director of Music Outreach

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**Briarwood Carol Sing and Celebration**

Carol 136 vv. 1, 2, 6

Chris Travers and Team

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**Baird Carol Sing and Celebration**

Carol 137

Briarwood Carol Sing and Celebration

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**Serving in the Nursery today**

Covenant Keepers/Firm Foundation

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**BTS**

Start off the new year by taking a Seminary Intensive course. BTS will offer these Jan 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. This will be a great night of worship to celebrate that most blessed time of year—Christmas! Invite your friends and family to one of our Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 5:00, 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. All services will begin with a time of singing, then each service will be unique with a different order of worship and messages. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and family to Christmas Eve services with us.

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**For Mission Prayer Focus**

Mission Prayer Focus: Ngwane and Ncamile Dlamini in Swaziland lead CrossRoads Ministry with the goal of transforming communities with hope, life and truth. Pray that the Lord will richly bless their ministry and the people of Swaziland.

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**Mission and Service Opportunities**

- **Mission**
  - Mission Prayer Focus: Ngwane and Ncamile Dlamini in Swaziland lead CrossRoads Ministry with the goal of transforming communities with hope, life and truth. Pray that the Lord will richly bless their ministry and the people of Swaziland.

- **Service**
  - The Lord is always working through our actions to reach others. Volunteer this Christmas to share the love of Jesus Christ. Serve in the nursery, children’s worship, the worship center, or the community. To volunteer, contact Kim at kvice@briarwood.org or 205-776-5399.

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**Tuesdays at the House**

Would you be willing to serve as a hospitality volunteer to provide housing and/or meals? To volunteer, contact Kim at kvice@briarwood.org or 205-776-5399. We also need volunteers for prayer, manual assembly, and transportation to conference attendees and seminary students at the Embers to a Flame Conference—Jan. 16–19.

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**Continuing Seminary Classes**

Term  classes—Theology of Missions (Jan. 9–11), Contemporary Issues in Worship (Jan. 12–15), and Biblical Counseling (Jan. 16–19).

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**Prayers**

- **Family**
  - Our love and sympathy to Amanda, Anna, Grant and Audrey Skinner and family on the death of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Rosalee Aguayo, on Dec. 14; to Sharon Henderson, David, Scott and Nathan Myers and family on the death of their husband and father, member Odis Bryan Huffstutler and family on the death of their husband and father, member Odis Bryan Huffstutler, on Dec. 12; to Joel Acevedo and family on the death of his mother, Ana with them. II Chronicles 17:9a

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**Praises**

- **Students**
  - Teachers need support, encouragement, and help to be effective role models for their students. Pray for our children’s teachers as they train and equip teachers in cooperative learning and train them to use Jesus as a role model of character with their students.

- **Mission**
  - Mission Prayer Focus: Ngwane and Ncamile Dlamini in Swaziland lead CrossRoads Ministry with the goal of transforming communities with hope, life and truth. Pray that the Lord will richly bless their ministry and the people of Swaziland.

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**Ministry**

Would you be willing to serve as a hospitality volunteer to provide housing and/or meals? To volunteer, contact Kim at kvice@briarwood.org or 205-776-5399. We also need volunteers for prayer, manual assembly, and transportation to conference attendees and seminary students at the Embers to a Flame Conference—Jan. 16–19. We also need volunteers for prayer, manual assembly, and transportation to conference attendees and seminary students at the Embers to a Flame Conference—Jan. 16–19.

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**Praise the Lord.**

- **Our Church Family**
  - Lord, in the morning You hear my voice... Psalm 5:3

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**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  
“O Holy Night” (Baird)  
Beth Mooney and Laurie Borland, duet

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Nathan, Jessica and Joanna Ivey (8:00)  
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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

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9–10
The Choral Offering of Worship  “Christmas is Here with Joy Untold” (Weyse, arr. Berg)  Tara Howard, soloist

*The Confession of Truth  Westminster Shorter Catechism, qq. 21, 22

*The Season of Worship through the Carols of Christmas  “Good Christian Men, Rejoice” Carol 151 - “What Child is This?” Carol 137

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 New Testament Reading  Matthew 1, 2; Luke 1, 2 (selected)

The Exposition of God’s Word  Pastor Reeder

IV. Advent in Biblical Perspective  
Life Portraits from the Nativity  
“The Spirit of God and the Word of God for the Glory of God”  Matthew 1, 2; Luke 1, 2 (selected)

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

The Ministry in Music  “Mary, Did You Know?” (Lowry/Greene)  Daniel Cason and Tracey Jolly, soloists

*The Pastoral Benediction

*The Congregational Affirmation  “Doxology” (tune: “Veni, Emmanuel”)

The Postlude  “Sussex Carol” (Williams)

* 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.

Briarwood Carol Sing and Scripture Expositions

Our love and sympathy to Amanda, Anna, Grant and Audrey Skinner and family on the death of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Rosalee Bryan Huffstutler and family on the death of their husband and father, member Odis Norden.

Both Sunday morning services are broadcast live on WLJR 88.5 FM, and the

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Praise the Lord. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His Name’s sake. (Psalm 23:1–3)

Pray for the many people who are hurting this holiday season to be surrounded by our Lord and Savior’s love as He comforts them each step they take. Pray for God’s amazing grace to fall upon them.

Mission Prayer Focus: Ngwane and Ncamile Dlamini in Swaziland lead CrossRoads ministry with the goal of transforming communities with hope, life and truth. Pray as they train and equip teachers in cooperative learning and train them to use Jesus as a role model of character with their students. (The flag of Swaziland is featured in today’s worship service.)

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

Opportunities for Ministry and Growth

Invite your friends and family to one of our Christmas Eve Candelight 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/events.

Start off the new year by taking a Seminary Intensive course. BTS will offer these Jan Term classes—Theology of Missions (Jan. 9–11), Contemporary Issues in Worship (Jan. 9–11), and Church Revitalization/Embers Conf. (Jan. 16–19) at Briarwood. To find out more, go to bts.education or call 205-776-5356.

Would you be willing to serve as a hospitality volunteer to provide housing and/or transportation to conference attendees and seminary students at the Embers to a Flame Conference—Jan. 16–19? We also need volunteers for prayer, manual assembly, and serving meals. To volunteer, contact Kim at kvice@briarwood.org or 205-776-5399.

Our Church Family

Duty Elders for Anointing Services: Class of 2020

Serving in the Nursery today: Covenant Keepers/Firm Foundation

Hospitalized: Barbara Head, Rebecca Massey, Bob Taylor, Liz Pate, Blake Wintersteen, TN Norden

Our love and sympathy to Amanda, Anna, Grant and Audrey Skinner and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Ken Laughlin, on Dec. 11; to Sharon and Bryan Huffstutler and family on the death of their husband and father, member Odis Huffstutler, on Dec. 12; to Joel Acevedo and family on the death of his mother, Ana Aguayo, on Dec. 14; and to Sharon Henderson, David, Scott and Nathan Myers and family on the death of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Rosalee Vineyard, on Dec. 16; and to the family of member Elaine Patton who died on Dec. 16.

If you or someone you know is currently job seeking, remember to check our listing of all current opportunities at the church and at Briarwood Christian School at briarwood.org/employment.
Urban Ministry Prayer—Today 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.

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.

Last-minute Christmas shopping? Shop the Bookstore for your gift needs! Open until 1:00 p.m. today and 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Monday. The Bookstore will be closed on Tues., Dec. 24 and Wed., Dec. 25.

The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated this 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.

PCA Christmas Offering will be taken at the 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.

The church and school offices will be closed Tues., Dec. 24 and Wed., Dec. 25 for Christmas; then again on Wed., Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday.

The church gates will close at 9:00 p.m. on Mon., Dec. 23 and re-open at 3:00 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 24. They will close following the 11:00 p.m. communion service, and re-open on Thurs., Dec. 26 at 5:30 a.m. On Tues., Dec. 31, gates will close at 9:00 p.m. and re-open on Thurs., Jan. 2 at 5:30 a.m.

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.

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.

Trailblazers—Jan. 6, come tour Samford’s Hodges Chapel and the Library collectibles. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Samford, then join us for lunch at Brio after. Contact Sharon at sjohnston@briarwood.org or 205-776-5320 for info.

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.


Birmingham Rally and March for Life—Sat., Jan. 18 at 10:45 a.m. at Brother Bryan Park (22nd St. S. at 10th Ave). Rain or shine; families welcome!

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.
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. Evening Worship - Worship Center

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

TUESDAY
Church and school offices closed
* 5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight - Worship Center
* 7:00 p.m. Family Candlelight - Worship Center
11:00 p.m. Communion Candlelight - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY
Merry Christmas
Church and school offices closed

THURSDAY
No activities

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
IV. Advent in Biblical Perspective

*Life Portraits from the Nativity*

“The Word of God and the Spirit of God in the Nativity”
Matthew 1, 2; Luke 1, 2 (selected)
(page 808, 855 in the ESV pew Bible)

Introduction/Review:

The Word of God

The Spirit of God
Life Takeaways