

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

CHRIST SUNDAY

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP - December 29, 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

...in the great assembly I will bless the LORD. Psalm 26:12

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

"A Christmas Hymn" (Anonymous)

Sara Caitlin Godwin, pianist

Almighty God, grant us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness. Place upon us the armor of light as we sojourn in this life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life everlasting, through Him Who lives and ever intercedes for us.

The Introit

"Come, Lord Jesus" (Lashley)

Ben Lashley, soloist

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

Dr. Harry L. Reeder III and family

The Gospel Word of Salvation

***The Greeting of Grace and Peace**

***The Carol of Ascents**

"Joy to the World" Carol 125

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

I call upon You, for You will answer me, O God; incline Your ear to me; hear my words. Psalm 17:6

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD, Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! Psalm 89:5

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

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew 6:19, 20

The Musical Offering of Worship

“Fullness of Grace” (Getty/Townend)

*The Confession of Truth

The Nicene Creed

*The Season of Worship through the Carols

“We Three Kings” Carol 166 vv. 1, 5

“One Small Child” Carol 164

“As with Gladness Men of Old” Carol 163

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD

...but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night. Psalm 1:2

*The Prayer of Illumination

*†The New Testament Reading

Luke 2:22–38

The Exposition of God’s Word

Pastor Reeder

VI. Advent in Biblical Perspective

Life Portraits from the Nativity

“Anna and Simeon After the Nativity”

Luke 2: 22–38

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

*The Pastoral Benediction

*The Congregational Affirmation

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” Hymn 52 vv. 1, 6

The Postlude

* 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.

A Season of Prayer

Prayers *and* Praises

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (II Corinthians 5:17)

Praise God for all the ministry events that Briarwood was able to share this year, especially with many people coming to Christ in 2019. Pray for all the outreach opportunities we will have in 2020.

Mission Prayer Focus: Pray for Mastermedia International CEO Dan Ruppel and his teams in Hollywood and New York, that God would expand their opportunities to serve as a voice for the Christian community to top media leaders. Pray that God will give them favor with media influencers to be a voice of the Christian faith in their personal lives. *(The flag of California is featured in today's worship service.)*

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

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

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.

Come march for life at the Birmingham Rally and March for Life on Sat., Jan. 18 at 10:45 a.m. at Brother Bryan Park (22nd St. S. at 10th Ave). Event will be held rain or shine. Families are welcome!

If you or someone you know is adjusting to the death of a loved one, come to the GriefShare 13-session class beginning Wed., Jan. 8 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in W202. Call the Pastoral Care Office at 205-776-5227 to learn more.

Begin the new year in the Word by joining a men's or women's study group. Women of the Covenant and Men of the Covenant study group opportunities begin Jan. 6. See the list of all the studies on the Briarwood App or online at briarwood.org/women and briarwood.org/men.

Recharge your middle of the week this winter by coming to MidWeek at Briarwood, beginning Wed., Jan. 8. There are opportunities for the entire family to come together on Wednesday evenings for a Fellowship Dinner and to take part in a class or activity. See all the offerings for winter/spring 2020, as well as sign up for dinner and Nursery reservations on the Briarwood App or at briarwood.org/midweek. Make Wednesday evenings a time your family looks forward to every week!

Our Church Family

Duty Elders for Anointing Services: Class of 2020

Serving in the Nursery today: G & C

The church and school offices will be closed on Wed., Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday.

The church gates will close at 9:00 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 31 and re-open on Thurs., Jan. 2 at 5:30 a.m.

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

Announcements

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.

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

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.

Sportsman's Blast—coming Feb. 7! Past speaker Russell Thornberry, TV personality, ordained minister and devoted family man will be our guest. Get your 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.

Counseling in the Local Church II—Begins on Wed., Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in A209. Dr. Stephen Cloud will teach how to conduct more effective personal ministry. Contact 205-776-5281 or altadena@briarwood.org for details.

Foundations Early Learning Center Prayer—Fri., Jan. 10 at 10:30 a.m. in A205. All are welcome to join us to pray.

Persecuted Church Prayer—Sun., Jan. 12 in G103 at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us to pray for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fostering Hope is our ministry to prospective and current foster parents and foster children. You may not be able to be a foster parent, but you can foster hope. Join us beginning in January. Contact David Wells for information at 205-587-9553.

Raiders Getaway—Jan. 25–26. Come “get away” for a weekend of teaching, worship, and fun activities! Sign up at briarwood.org/getaway for early bird price..

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

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

F. I. T. (Fitness Inspiring Togetherness) class—For 50 and beyond meets on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00 a.m. and Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Ballet Room. Cost is \$25/month (first class is free). For info, email brendabparks@gmail.com or go to questrecreation.org.

Wholehearted Fitness—Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m. in the Ballet Room. Class focused on all muscle groups, cardio bursts, and flexibility. Cost is \$65/month or \$10/class. Email kellypatrick123@gmail.com or go to questrecreation.org.

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

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.

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
* 6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship - 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		Happy New Year Church and school offices closed
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THURSDAY	9:30 a.m.	Pray for Our Nation - Wmn: Brides Rm/Men: Prayer Rm
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FRIDAY		No activities
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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, cussell@briarwood.org, at the time of your gift.





Briarwood

Presbyterian Church PCA

The Lord's Day Morning, December 29, 2019

Dr. Harry L. Reeder III

VI. Advent in Biblical Perspective

Life Portraits from the Nativity

“Anna and Simeon After the Nativity”

Luke 2: 22-38 (page 857 in the ESV pew Bible)

Introduction/Review:

Anna

Simeon

Life Takeaways