

Briarwood

Presbyterian Church, PCA



For God's glory

We are committed to equipping

Christians to worship God

and to reach Birmingham

to reach the world for Christ



Celebration of Worship

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – August 16, 2020

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

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

Psalm 47:5-7

[All:] God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession “Holy, Holy, Holy” (arr. Pethal)

Eternal God, in Whom we live and move and have our being, Whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and Whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to You, confessing our faults, confiding in Your grace, and finding in You our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ Your Son.

from *The Book of Common Worship*

The Invocation

The Gospel Word of Salvation

*The Greeting of Grace and Peace

*The Hymn of Ascents

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” Hymn 234

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne:
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love: Behold His hands and side –
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life: Who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n: One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him giv'n From yonder glorious throne.

To Thee be endless praise, For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days Adored and magnified.

*The Confession of Truth

Ephesians 4:7-10

[Leader:] *But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

Therefore it says:

[All:] "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the Heavens, that He might fill all things.)

[Leader:] *The Word of the Lord.*

[All:] **Thanks be to God!**

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

*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

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 Musical Offering of Worship

"Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death"

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand? What comes, apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

[Refrain:]

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal; O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?

Who sends the waves that bring us nigh Unto the shore, the rock of Christ? (Refrain)

Unto the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord, Then sin and death will be destroyed,

And we will feast in endless joy, When Christ is ours forevermore. (Refrain x2)

Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death.

*The Singing of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

"Agnus Dei" • "Before the Throne of God Above"

Alleluia! Alleluia! For the Lord, God almighty reigns.

Alleluia! Alleluia! For the Lord, God almighty reigns.

Alleluia! Holy, holy are you Lord God, almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen. (Repeat)

For You are holy, holy are You, Lord God, almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen.

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose Name is Love, Whoever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart.
I know that while in heaven He stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness;
The great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace.
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God;
with Christ my Savior and my God!

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22

***The Prayer of Illumination**

***The New Testament Reading**

Acts 1:1-12

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

XI. The Apostles' Creed in Biblical Perspective

"I Believe..."

"He Ascended Into Heaven"

Acts 1:1-12

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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

***The Pastoral Benediction**

***The Congregational Affirmation** *"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"* Hymn 97 v.1

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!

***The Postlude**

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (arr. Hopson)

* The congregation is requested to stand, if able.

The 8:00 and 10:55 Sunday morning services are broadcast live on WLJR 88.5 FM, and are also available online at briarwood.org/livetv. Watch the recording anytime at briarwood.org/archivetv.

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Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version.

EVENING SERVICE – 6:00 P.M.

"Conversations with Harry and Bruce"

available online at briarwood.org/livetv, on the BriarwoodPCA App
and on Facebook, Roku and AppleTV

Watch all services anytime at briarwood.org/archivetv and on Facebook and Vimeo.
Sermons can be seen on the Briarwood YouTube channel, and sermon transcriptions
may be found at briarwood.org/sermons.

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord! *Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments!* Psalm 112:1

Please be in prayer for God to bring revival to the hearts of men and women throughout America and all other nations of His earth.

As UAB is about to begin the new semester, please pray for our ministry to the international students there. Pray that God will give us creative ways to serve and welcome them. And pray that their hearts would be receptive to the gospel, which many of them have never heard.

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

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

Briarwood continues to provide streaming online of our Sunday morning worship at 8:00 and 10:55 a.m. Both morning worship services are available on WLJR-FM 88.5, and you can watch live services at briarwood.org/livetv, on the BriarwoodPCA App, Facebook, Roku, and AppleTV. Recorded services may be seen online at briarwood.org/archivetv, on the BriarwoodPCA App, Facebook and Vimeo.

Submit your questions for *Conversations with Harry and Bruce* by email to askthepastor@briarwood.org. Then watch Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. when the program is presented online at briarwood.org/livetv, on Facebook, Roku, AppleTV and the BriarwoodPCA App. See program archives anytime online at briarwood.org/conversations, the Briarwood PCA App, on Facebook, Vimeo, Roku and AppleTV.

Forgiven and Set Free, a free, confidential, and caring small group Bible study for post-abortive women will begin in early Sept. with social distancing practiced. For details, contact Heather at 205-578-2022.

Our Church Family

Hospitalized: Hadden Smith, Ed Travis, Denise Whitfield

We rejoice with Josh and Virginia Pope on the birth of their sons, Henry and Clifton, July 29; with Evan and Sarah Travers on the birth of their son, Ian Jesse, on July 30 and grandparents Mark and Darby Travers; to Jeff and Ellen Flannery on the birth of their daughter, Helen Grace, on Aug. 7 and grandparents Jeff and Judy Flannery; to Caleb and Mary Cleveland on the birth of their son, Thomas Alan, on Aug. 8 and grandparents Paul and Cathie Cleveland.

Our love and sympathy to Ken and Chip Elmer and family on the death of their father and grandfather, James Elmer, on July 14; to Greg Adams and family on the death of his mother, Charlotte Adams, on Aug. 4; to Charlotte Walker and family on the death of her husband, member Bill Walker III, on Aug. 10; and to the family of member, Mary Novak, who died on Aug. 10.

INTERIM WORSHIP/MINISTRY PLAN D

Beginning Sunday, August 23 . . .

We will reopen our **Nursery** for the 8:00 and 11:00 services and provide **Children's Worship** at all three of our morning worship services. We have sought the counsel of other childcare facilities and are seeking to follow the guidelines provided to us by health professionals as we train and equip our staff to lovingly and safely care for your children. Providing the Nursery at 8:00 and 11:00 will allow us to clean during the 9:30 service and prepare for the children coming for our 11:00 service. The Nursery will be available on Sunday Mornings by reservation.

Beginning Tuesday, August 25 . . .

On Tuesday and Thursday evenings we will provide rooms set up for social distancing for **Congregational Communities** not needing childcare to gather. A large majority of our Communities have embraced effective means for replacing the Sunday morning teaching time with Zoom and other methods, and we do not want to alter that at this time. However, there is an additional need for some of them to periodically meet in person. These bi-weekly gatherings will be available by reservation through our Christian Education Department. Communities will determine best use of time to meet the needs of their community.

Beginning Wednesday, August 26 . . .

Raiders and **BYG** ministries will meet weekly at The Barn.

Beginning Wednesday, September 9 . . .

Wednesday evenings we will prioritize gatherings spaces for communities needing childcare to meet. We will provide bi-weekly meeting opportunities by reservation along with our **Nursery**, **Connect** and **Ignite** ministries. This will allow the children to participate in Children's Ministry while their parents are attending their respective Community gatherings. Communities will determine best use of time to meet the needs of their community.

Beginning Sunday, September 13 . . .

Raiders small groups will meet at the church while **BYG** small groups meet at The Barn.

Please Note . . .

We strongly encourage people at "high risk" and communities with a significant number of members at "high risk" to make wise decisions regarding when and if to gather together. We will continue to provide Worship streaming, Zoom and other means of ministry for those needing to avoid large gatherings during this time.

Details related to each ministry such as how to make a Nursery or room reservation, safety protocols, etc. will be sent to participants and parents in the coming days and will also be available online.

Bruce Stallings
Executive Pastor