

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

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE ON THEOLOGY AND LIFE THE REAL STATE OF THE UNION

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – September 6, 2020

THE GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. Acts 11:26

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms Psalm 22:27-28

[All:] All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.
For kingship belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations.

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession “Ode to Joy” (arr. Scott)

Almighty and holy Father, I confess that I am unworthy of Your gift of salvation. I have not loved You as I ought; I have not always been loving to my brothers and sisters in Christ, kindhearted and forgiving, even as You, for Christ’s sake, have forgiven me. I have lived in selfishness and worldly pride, and the good gifts You have bestowed upon me have not been used to relieve the burdens of others. Pardon and blot out my offenses, I pray. Grant me grace to feel and lament my share in the evil that took my Savior, Jesus Christ, to the cross. And give me a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance offered by Your Son, my Redeemer. Amen.

The Invocation

The Gospel Word of Salvation

***The Greeting of Grace and Peace**

***The Hymn of Ascents** “We Are God’s People” Hymn 283

We are God’s people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of His Spirit, established by His Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, And strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently, And walk heart-to-heart and hand-in-hand.

We are God’s loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return The gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care, And live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God, And so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a Temple, the Spirit’s dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God’s grace;
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on To give warmth and light, and to inspire.

***The Confession of Truth**

The Old Scots Confession

[Leader:] *Christians, what do you confess?*

[All:] We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to Whom alone we must cleave, Whom alone we must serve, Whom only we must worship, and in Whom only we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; One in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. By Whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by His inscrutable Providence for such ends as His eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of His own glory. Amen.

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

Praise the LORD! It is good to sing praises to our God... Psalm 147:1a

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

“Onward, Christian Soldiers” (arr. Goff)
Hunter Goff, soloist

***The Singing of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs**

“O Church Arise” • “My Jesus, I Love Thee” Hymn 364

O church, arise and put your armor on; Hear the call of Christ our captain;
For now the weak can say that they are strong In the strength that God has given.

With shield of faith and belt of truth We’ll stand against the devil’s lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is “Love!” Reaching out to those in darkness.

[Men:]

Our call to war, to love the captive soul, But to rage against the captor;

[Women:]

And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor.

[All:]

When faced with trials on ev’ry side, We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died, An inheritance of nations.

[Women:]

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;

[All:]

Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, For the Conqueror has risen!

So Spirit, come, put strength in ev’ry stride, Give grace for ev’ry hurdle,

That we may run with faith to win the prize Of a servant good and faithful.

As saints of old still line the way, Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

My Jesus, I love thee, I know Thou art mine— For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou: If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me, And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on my brow; If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow,
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow, "If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

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**

The Exposition of God's Word

The Real State of the Union

"Rendering to Caesar the Things that are Caesar's
and Unto God the Things that are God's" (8:00, 10:55)

Matthew 27:21

Dr. Peter Lillback

President of Westminster Theological Seminary

"Public Theology in the Breach" (9:30)

I Timothy 2:1-8

Dr. John Currie

Dean of Pastoral Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 1:3

***The Pastoral Benediction**

***The Congregational Affirmation** "Rise Up, O Church of God" Hymn 293 vv. 1, 4

Rise up, O Church of God! Have done with lesser things;

Give heart and mind and soul and strength To serve the King of kings.

Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet have trod;

As foll'wers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O Church of God!

The Postlude

"We've A Story to Tell to the Nations" (Nichol)

* 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.

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord! *Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD; Your salvation according to Your promise; then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in Your Word.* Psalm 119:41,42

Welcome and be in prayer for our special time with Dr. Peter Lillback and Dr. John Currie as they share with us. Pray for protection, direction and strength from our Lord.

Pray for our many National Ministry partners that prioritize evangelism and discipleship through sports-focused ministry: Athletes in Action (Cru), Blueprint Tuscaloosa, FCA, and Sports Outreach. The school year has begun and many student athletes and coaches are adjusting to the health and safety realities of COVID. Pray that a wide open door for ministry opportunities will continue and that many athletes will hear and respond to the gospel. *(The flag of the State of Alabama is featured in today's worship service.)*

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

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

This evening's *Conversations with Harry and Bruce* will feature today's Conference guests, Drs. Lillback and Currie, who are speaking in this morning's services. Watch online tonight at briarwood.org/livety, on Facebook Live, on AppleTV and on the BriarwoodPCA App.

Praise the Lord for His blessings on the reopening of our Nursery and addition of our 8:00 a.m. Children's Worship on Sunday. We are grateful for the thoughtful response of our parents and the ministry of our staff and volunteers. Please remember to make your nursery reservations at briarwood.org/nursery 24 hours before your assigned Sunday service and pay careful attention to social distancing when picking up your children from Children's Worship.

Beginning this fall, BTS is ready to offer the opportunity to learn together—in person, as well as remotely for those who would prefer. Classes will be offered on the Westminster Confession of Faith, New Testament Covenant Theology, Apologetics, Systematic Theology, Counseling in the Local Church (by video conference), and more! To see the details and to look into enrollment, go to bts.education.

Our Church Family

Hospitalized: Betty Hull, Linda Sitton, Ed Travis, Neva Walker

Our love and sympathy to Renee Steeley, Ryan Steeley and family on the death of their father and grandfather, John Nestor, on Aug. 20; and to Warren Rock, Andrew Rock and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Carolyn Mathews, on Aug. 23.

Announcements

GriefShare—If you or someone you know is adjusting to the death of a loved one, come to this 13-session Zoom class. Call 205-776-5227.

Divorced or separated? Come find help, discover hope, and experience healing in this weekly DivorceCare support group. For information, call 205-776-5281.

Counseling in the Local Church I—This Zoom class will begin on Wed., Sept. 9 at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Stephen Cloud will teach how to conduct more effective personal ministry. Contact 205-776-5281 or altadena@briarwood.org for details.

We are resuming Infant Baptisms in the three morning services beginning mid-September. Contact Marie Gathings for available dates at 205-776-5204 or mgathings@briarwood.org. Also if you are interested in a “New Believer” baptism, contact Wendy Long in the Membership Office at 205-776-5208.

Financial Peace University—Planning for the future is hard when you’re still paying for the past. There’s a better way! Join the Financial Peace University class, and learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future...together! The Zoom class begins Sept. 8. Contact dmatthews@briarwood.org.

Friendship Partners is a wonderful way to welcome the international students and scholars in Birmingham! Please consider becoming a friend to our Internationals this Fall! Orientation will be in September. For more information, email Caroline Brown at cbrown@briarwood.org.

Nursery has reopened for classes assigned to the 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. services by reservation only, at least 24 hours before your assigned service. Visit our website at briarwood.org/nursery for all necessary information on registration, our Nursery Protocols, and Sunday morning arrival.

Children’s Worship—We have added a third Children’s Worship for the 8:00 a.m. service. Please visit our website at briarwood.org/children for more information. And please continue to help us on Sunday mornings during drop-off and pick-up, being extra diligent to practice social distancing in the children’s area.

Raiders/BYG Wednesday Nights meets each week from 6:30–8:00 p.m. In order for students to participate, parents/guardians of all 7th–12th graders must sign fall waiver at briarwood.org/youth.

Raiders/BYG D-groups—Our small group Bible studies for 7th–12th graders begin Sun., Sept. 13. All students must register online to be in a D-group at briarwood.org/youth.

Be sure to submit your questions for *Conversations with Harry and Bruce* by email to askthepastor@briarwood.org. Then watch the program online Sundays at 6:00 p.m. at briarwood.org/livetv, on Facebook, AppleTV and the BriarwoodPCA App. See program archives anytime at briarwood.org/conversations, the Briarwood PCA App, on Facebook, Vimeo, and AppleTV. Read Pastor Reeder’s latest Pastoral Letter at briarwood.org/pastorsblog.

Job opportunities are currently available with several Briarwood ministries, both full and part-time. See the listing with details on the positions as well as how to apply at briarwood.org/employment.