

THE

BRIARWOOD WEEKLY

• NOVEMBER 27, 2020 •



"Hallelujah! A Briarwood Christmas in Living Portraits" will be presented on Sat., Dec. 19 and Sun., Dec. 20 at 6:00 p.m. We will have two presentations this year in order to provide socially distanced services with the proper COVID protocols. Online reservations are required and will be at briarwood.org/hallelujah beginning Mon., Nov. 30. Also, please make your nursery reservations, if needed, at briarwood.org/nursery.

The story of Christ's birth will be presented in music, drama, and through the preaching of the Word—featuring the Briarwood Choirs, Ballet, Festival Orchestra, and Dramatists. We have expanded this year's cast and set to include John the Baptist as well as stunning banners for our kings' processional and an elegant candle display!

This program is first and foremost, a Festival of Worship where the Presence of Jesus Christ through the Power of the Holy Spirit, will permeate every detail. But it will also be a wonderful venue for children, youth, and adults who have never heard the Gospel. The Gospel will be presented in all its beauty, hope, and love for every individual.

Favorite Christmas music such as "Breath of Heaven, O Holy Night, In the First Light, the Hallelujah Chorus"—as well as works from Handel's *Messiah* and other classics—are woven through dramatic Scripture readings as a stunningly beautiful costumed cast depicts the biblical narrative.

Get your reservations in early because space is limited. For those who cannot attend due to COVID concerns the Sunday evening presentation will be livestreamed.

Blessings on you!

John Haines

Worship Pastor



Briarwood
Presbyterian Church, PCA

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CONVERSATIONS

WITH HARRY AND BRUCE

Pastor Reeder and Bruce Stallings
answer questions submitted to
askthepastor@briarwood.org
this Sunday night at 6:00 p.m.

Available on briarwood.org, Facebook,
Roku, AppleTV and the Briarwood App.

Drive Through **NATIVITY**

Plan on attending this year's Drive Through Nativity and be sure to pick up some postcards and a yard sign at the church exits to help you invite family and friends to this wonderful outreach event. The Nativity narration will be available on the BriarwoodPCA App.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
December 9, 10, 11
6:45–8:45 p.m.

✓
vote

Officer Selection Sunday for the Class of 2023 is December 6. Due to the ramifications of COVID-19, we are allowing our members who are unable to attend in person to vote online only during the time slot of 8:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Please visit our website at briarwood.org/elect to cast your vote. The site will close promptly at 12:15 p.m. and no votes will be accepted after this time. If you have any questions, contact Leigh Ann Reese at lreese@briarwood.org.

PURCHASE POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

**DEDICATE A POINSETTIA IN MEMORY
OR HONOR OF SOMEONE SPECIAL,
AND HELP DECORATE THE WORSHIP
CENTER FOR CHRISTMAS.**

DEADLINE SUN., DEC. 6.

**ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE
ON THE KIOSKS, OR YOU CAN
PURCHASE ONLINE AT
BRIARWOOD.ORG/POINSETTIA.**

Christmas Poinsettias



Briarwood members, make Advent more meaningful for your child by registering for a special Christmas Box from the Children's Ministry. Much like last summer's POP, this will be dropped to your doorstep and will interact with our online lesson. Register at briarwood.org/children by Sun., Dec. 13.



Celebration of Worship

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – November 29, 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

Bless God in the great congregation, the LORD, O You who are of Israel's fountain! Psalm 68:26

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 98:4

[All:] Make a joyful noise to the LORD all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

"What Child Is This?" (Traditional)

Laurie Borland and Beth Mooney, flutists

As the prophets of old cried out among Your people who were weary and downcast, yearning for the coming Promised Messiah, so today Your call rings out through the proclamation of Your Word, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" Oh Lord, speak to my heart during this season of grace as You spoke to Your prophets and saints. Allow me to fix my gaze upon Christ, Redeemer and Savior of His people, and to relive the joy of His blessed Advent.

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

John and D'onne Salmon (8:00)

Chase and Sloan Crawford (9:30)

Tank and Amy Tankersley (11:00)

*The Greeting of Grace and Peace

*The Carol of Ascents

"Joy to the World" Carol 125

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, and wonders of His love.

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

*...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6*

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

*Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth. Isaiah 12:5*

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

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:7*

*The Singing of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" Carol 131

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Carol 123

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing you flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

[Chorus:]

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, Yonder shines the infant Light: (Chorus)

Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star: (Chorus)

Saints before the alter bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear: (Chorus)

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

[Refrain:]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and night;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go. (Refrain)

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

...for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Acts 20:27

*The Prayer of Illumination

*The Confession of Truth

Psalm 41:13; Revelation 22:20-21

[Leader:] *Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.*

[All:] **He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.**

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

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

*†The New Testament Reading

II Corinthians 1:15-22

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

XX. The Apostles' Creed in Biblical Perspective

"I Believe..."

"Amen"

II Corinthians 1:15-22

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

...that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:6

*The Pastoral Benediction

"The Apostles' Creed"

[All:] **I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* universal

*The Congregational Affirmation

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Hymn 8 v.1

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration! Amen.

The Postlude

* The congregation is requested to stand, if able.

The 8:00 and 11:00 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.