



THE KINGS OF CHRISTMAS

BRIARWOOD ADVENT 2020

*Behold, wise men from the east
came to Jerusalem, saying,
"Where is He who has been born
King of the Jews?
For we saw His star when it rose and
have come to worship Him."*

Matthew 2:1-2



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 Tithes 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.

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord! *Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart.*

Psalm 119:1, 2

Pray for Christians throughout America to hold steadfast to our Lord, pray without ceasing and rest in His Word.

Pray for our international friends who will be in Birmingham this holiday season. Pray God would use our members and events, like the Drive Through Nativity, to share the wonderful story of the love and grace of God coming down through Jesus Christ. Pray God would be softening hearts and opening eyes this Christmas.

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

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

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.

Join us for Briarwood’s Drive Through Nativity, Wed., Dec. 9; Thurs., Dec. 10; and Fri., Dec. 11 from 6:45–8:45 p.m. each night on the Church property. Come be encouraged and blessed by this fun, creative and beautiful Christmas event. This is a great outreach opportunity to invite others to attend. Each year our Church family shares the story of our Savior’s birth, life, death, and resurrection as a free gift with thousands of guests from throughout central Alabama. You can pick up a yard sign at the Church exits. Also, go ahead and download the BriarwoodPCA App so you will be ready to hear the narration for this exciting and memorable depiction of the Greatest News ever, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Briarwood’s Music, Ballet and Drama Ministries come together to present “Hallelujah! *A Briarwood Christmas in Living Portraits*” Sat., Dec. 19 and Sun., Dec. 20 at 6:00 p.m. Contemporary and classical music of the season will be presented as the biblical scenes are depicted in drama and dance. With COVID concerns attendance is limited, so registration is required beginning Nov. 30 at briarwood.org/hallelujah. The Sunday concert will also be presented online.

Our Church Family

Hospitalized: Mary Frances Crawford, Cile Leach, Herb Rader, Nancy Turnage, Rose Wear, Pete Weston, Wanda Wright, Barry Wood

Our love and sympathy to Barry McCleskey and family on the death of his mother, Janice McCleskey, on Nov. 24.

Announcements

Advent devotional recommendation from Pastor Reeder • *Love Came Down at Christmas* (\$10) by Sinclair Ferguson contains 24 daily readings from I Corinthians 13, with a perspective centered on the arrival to earth of love itself: Christ. Call the Bookstore to purchase at 205-776-5210. Quantity is limited, so call soon!

Thank you to everyone who packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child! Pray for the 712 children receiving the boxes packed physically and online by our congregation. If you receive an email detailing where your box went, the Children's Ministry would love to know. Email rmacoy@briarwood.org with location.

EMC Pledge cards • If you still need to submit your Every Member Commitment Pledge for 2021, you may do so by mail to 2200 Briarwood Way, B'ham., AL 35243; by emailing emcresponse@briarwood.org; or by completing the online form at briarwood.org/emc. On this same webpage you may also see the EMC video and brochure describing some of the many ways your tithe is used to build God's Kingdom throughout the year.

Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone special by Sun., Dec. 6 and help decorate the Worship Center for Christmas. Envelopes are available on the kiosks, or you can purchase online at briarwood.org/poinsettia.

Officer Selection Sunday for the Class of 2023 is Dec. 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, please contact Leigh Ann Reese at lreese@briarwood.org

Community Food Drive • Continue bringing non-perishable foods to the marked trailer located in Parking Lot-B on Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., and Sundays 7:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The Mercy Ministry/Christian Service Mission are grateful for your support.

The Men's Saturday morning prayer group is meeting at 7:00 a.m. in the Mountain View Building. Contact Dave Matthews for information at dmatthews@briarwood.org.

Briarwood continues to provide streaming online of our Sunday morning worship at 8:00 and 11:00 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 are available online anytime at briarwood.org/archivetv, on the BriarwoodPCA App, Facebook and Vimeo.

If you are interested in infant Baptism in our Sunday morning services, contact Marie Gathings at 205-776-5204 or mgathings@briarwood.org for future available dates. Also if you are interested in a "New Believer" baptism, contact Wendy Long in the Membership Office at 205-776-5208.

Worship Center Roof Replacement • Pray for the safety of all involved in the replacing of our Worship Center Roofing System. For your protection, please do not enter the fenced areas around the Worship Center. We appreciate your patience during this season of renovation.