



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – December 6, 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

*Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people, and praise Him
in the assembly of the elders. Psalm 107:32*

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 47:1-2

**[All:] Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For
the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great King over all the earth.**

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

“Christmas Joy” (arr. Lanier)

Bonnie Furuto and Chris Neugent, instrumentalists

*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

Ben and Kerri Willson (8:00)

Nathan and Julie Sasse (9:30)

Matthew and Kelly Forester (11:00)

*The Greeting of Grace and Peace

*The Carol of Ascents

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” Carol 124

Come, Thou long expected Jesus Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*The Confession of Truth

Nicene Creed (Trinitarian)

[Leader:] Christians, what do we believe concerning God, the Father?

**[All:] We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven
and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

[Leader:] Christians, what do we believe concerning God, the Son?

[All:] We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all the worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

[Leader:] *Christians, what do we believe concerning God, the Holy Spirit?*

[All:] We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. *universal

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:26

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

...addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart... Ephesians 5:19

The Presentation and Consecration of God's Tithe 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 Singing of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" Trinity Hymnal

"The Son of God Came Down" (Plank)

"What Child Is This?" Carol 137

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone astray.

[Refrain]:

Oh tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father A blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name. (Refrain)

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior Of a pure Virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him From Satan's pow'r and might." (Refrain)

The shepherds at those tidings Rejoiced much in mind
And left their flocks afeeding, In tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straight-way, The Son of God to find. (Refrain)

The Son of God came down and laid aside His crown,
Born without great renown, this Sovereign One.
All holiness and might, all glory shining bright
Have come to earth this night in Mary's son. O come, let us adore.

[Chorus:]

O Christ the Lord, our hope and Savior,
Son of God yet made like us.
O Christ the Lord, our King adored,
Born a child, our Lord Jesus.

Messiah born so small, asleep in cattle stall,
Come to redeem our fall, nailed to a tree.
This tiny, helpless child, through death would reconcile
The holy God and vile, His grace so free. O come, let us adore. (Chorus)

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?

[Refrain:]

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him. (Refrain)

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the Word of God... Ephesians 6:17*

*The Prayer of Illumination

*†The New Testament Reading

Luke 2:1-7

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

I. Advent in Biblical Perspective

The Kings of Christmas

“Caesar Augustus—King or Pawn?”

Luke 2:1-7

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13*

*The Pastoral Benediction

*The Congregational Affirmation

“The Advent of Our God” Carol 120 v. 1

The Advent of our God with eager hearts we greet;
And we must praise Him in this hour with hymns and anthems sweet.

The Postlude

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” (English Carol)

* 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 be the Name of the LORD from this day forth and forevermore!*
Psalm 113:2

Pray for good weather for the Drive Through Nativity, December 9–11. Pray also for the church volunteers needed, for their health and safety; and for those guests who do not know Jesus to receive Him as Lord and Savior.

Pray for Urban Hope Community Church and the gospel ministry that they are doing in the city of Fairfield. There are broken men and women who are hearing the gospel and coming to know Jesus. Pray for the church to build relationships and that God would open the door for more discipleship opportunities. (*The flag of Birmingham is featured in today's worship service.*)

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

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

Today is the deadline to dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone special and help decorate the Worship Center for Christmas. Envelopes are available on the kiosks, or you can purchase online at briarwood.org/poinsettia.

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. Registration is required at briarwood.org/hallelujah due to COVID concerns and attendance is limited. The Sunday concert will also be presented online as a livestream.

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.

Registration for the five Christmas Eve services opens online tomorrow (Dec. 7) at briarwood.org/candlelight. Be sure and sign up all attendees for the service you desire: Family Candlelight at 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.; Communion Candlelight at 9:00 and 11:00 p.m. Make Nursery reservations for a Family Candlelight service at briarwood.org/nursery.

Our Church Family

Hospitalized: Lloyd Brannon, Bill Buck, Sr., Herb Rader, Eric Stephens, JoAnn Weston, Pete Weston

We rejoice with Thomas and Rose Gardner on the birth of their son, Andrew Lake Gardner, on Nov. 30.

Our love and sympathy to Stephanie Smith and family on the death of her father, Floyd Higgins, on Nov. 26; to the family of member, Alice Kieran, on Nov. 25; to George and Karole Whaley and family on the death of their grandson, Jaymeson Self, on Nov. 27; to the family of member, Nancy Turnage, on Nov. 30; and to Carol McIntire and family on the death of her father, Cleve Noel, on Nov. 30.

Announcements

Officer Selection Sunday for the Class of 2023 is today. 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

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!

Join us for Briarwood's Drive Through Nativity Dec. 9, 10 and 11 from 6:45-8:45 p.m. and be encouraged by this creative, fun and beautiful depiction of our Saviors birth, death and resurrection. Invite your family and friends to this wonderful, free outreach event. Please download the BriarwoodPCA app to be prepared to hear the narration of the greatest Story ever told!

As 2020 Comes to an End • 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 2020. Contributions with Jan. 2021 postmarks will be considered 2021 contributions. Online contributions received before midnight on Dec. 31 will be considered 2020 contributions. Online gifts received after midnight Dec. 31 will be considered 2021 contributions.

Friendship Partner/ESL • Want to live a lifestyle of evangelism and discipleship but don't know where to start? Join us in welcoming local international students, scholars, and families. Partner with a student for a year or join our ESL group in teaching English to build relationships and bridges to the gospel. To find out more, email Caroline at cbrown@briarwood.org.

Community Food Drive • Please 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.