



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – December 13, 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

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. Acts 2:44

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 97:1

[All:] The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice!

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (arr. Cothorn)

Briarwood Brass Ensemble

Our glorious Savior and Redeemer, when the angels split open the skies over Bethlehem on that night long ago, their message was that of “Peace on earth!” Yet today, we are prone to wander from the very One who came to fulfill this promise to give us everlasting peace. Remind us anew, Lord, that the message the angels brought that night is one that can only be fulfilled as we yield our lives completely to You. As we prepare to celebrate Your birth, O Lord, may we be given a foretaste of the eternal peace that is yet to come.

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

Neil and Courtney Hatchett (8:00)

Keith and Missy Keller (9:30)

Gene and Sharon Head (11:00)

*The Greeting of Grace and Peace

*The Carol of Ascents

“The First Noel” Carol 136

The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

[Refrain:]

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

[Praise Team:]

*And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)*

[Women:]

This star drew nigh to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

[Men:]

Then entered in those wise men three, Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)

[All:]

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought. (Refrain)

***The Confession of Truth**

Numbers 24:17, Revelation 22:16

[Leader:] *I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near:*

[All:] **A star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.**

[Leader:] *I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you about these things for the churches.*

[All:] **I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.**

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

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

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16b

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

*"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing
and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" Revelation 5:13b*

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 9:70*

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

"We Three Kings" Carol 166 • "As With Gladness Men of Old" Carol 163

We three kings of Orient are: Bearing gifts we traverse afar—
Field and fountain, moor and mountain—Following yonder star.

[Refrain:]

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

[Praise Team:]

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain: Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign. (Refrain)

[Women:]

Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God on high. (Refrain)

[Men:]

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom—
Sorr'wing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)

[All:]

Glorious now behold Him arise: King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia! Earth to heav'n replies. (Refrain)

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.

[Women:]

As with joyful steps they sped To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before Him Whom heav'n and earth adore,
So, may we with willing feet Ever seek the mercy seat.

[Men:]

As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heav'nly King.

[All:]

Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

*The Prayer of Illumination

*†The New Testament Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

II. Advent in Biblical Perspective

The Kings of Christmas

“Magi and Kings from the East”

Matthew 2:1-12

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

“O Come, Let Us Adore Him” Carol 82 v. 1

O Come, Let us adore Him, O Come, Let us adore Him,

O Come, Let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

The Postlude

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (Chadwick)

* 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, all nations! Extol Him, o all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD! Psalm 117

Pray for the families and friends at Briarwood and people throughout the Birmingham area during this increased time of the virus. Pray it will end soon.

Pray for Doug and his wife Pam as they serve with Navigators in Colorado. Pray the U.S. Navigator staff will be faithful to share Christ through evangelism and discipleship, reaching their friends, family, and neighbors. May the Lord grant Doug and Pam wisdom and discernment as they lead field staff and business missions. (*The flag of Colorado is featured in today's worship service.*)

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

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

Briarwood members, today is the deadline to register for a special Christmas Box from the Children's Ministry that will make Advent more meaningful for your child. Much like last summer's POP, this will be dropped to your doorstep and will interact with our online lesson. To reserve your box, you must register at briarwood.org/children.

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. The Worship Center seating is filled both nights, so if you cannot attend in person, watch the livestream Sunday evening at briarwood.org/livetv and on Facebook, Roku, AppleTV and the Briarwood App.

Christmas Eve service registration is now open at briarwood.org/candlelight. Be sure and sign up all attendees for the service you would like to attend: Family Candlelight at 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.; Communion Candlelight at 9:00 and 11:00 p.m. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received in the Communion services, and the elements are gluten-free. Make Nursery reservations for a Family Candlelight service at briarwood.org/nursery.

Our Church Family

Hospitalized: Herb Rader, JoAnn Weston, Pete Weston

We rejoice with JD and Cierra Bragan on the birth of their son, William 'Billy' Joseph, on Nov. 16 and grandparents Jim and Libby Bragan.

Our love and sympathy to Patsy Medlock and family on the death of her mother, Dottie Lou Hayes Sandlin, on Dec. 4.

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

Announcements

Officer Election Sunday is today. This is for the purpose of electing the slate of candidates receiving the highest number of votes on Dec. 6. Due to the ramifications of COVID-19, we are allowing our members who are unable to attend in person to vote online 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.

Stewardship • When giving gifts of securities, please notify Matt Moore at the time of your gift so that your contribution may be processed accurately and efficiently. Contact Matt at 205-776-5205 or crussell@briarwood.org

PCA Christmas Offering will be taken at the Christmas Eve Services. Through the Ministerial Relief Fund, The Christmas Offering provides monthly supplemental income to our retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows and dependent children who have low income and meet the Relief Fund guidelines. Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews on Christmas Eve.

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.

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!

26th Annual Meadow Brook Runs • Sat., Dec. 19 at 1100 Corporate Parkway (35242). Start times: 5K at 9:00 a.m. and 1-mile Fun Run at 10:00 a.m. Come support The Jesus Video Project of Alabama, walkers and pets on leash welcome. Go to meadowbrookruns.org.

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.

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/livetyv, on the BriarwoodPCA App, Facebook, Roku and AppleTV. Recorded services are available online anytime at briarwood.org/archivetyv, on the BriarwoodPCA App, Facebook and Vimeo.

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.