

BRIARWOOD WEEKLY

• DECEMBER 18, 2020 •

Drive Through NATIVITY BRIARWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Joy to the World! The Lord is Come!" Praise the Lord for how He worked at our *Drive Through Nativity 2020!* It was amazing to see the Lord bring an abundance of people to attend and view the portrayal of the life of Christ at each scene and hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We trust God will use the Gospel seeds that were sewn in the lives of those who attended to bear fruit unto eternal life.

One of our members expressed that she was excited to hear that a neighbor she invited to attend came to the Nativity. They communicated with her how grateful they were for the opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with their children in such a beautiful expression. Their children were "mesmerized by the scenes" as they drove through and inquisitive at the end of the story of Jesus. Another couple expressed what so many people shared with us, "We are so thankful that you provided such an excellent, biblically accurate, and safe opportunity for us to hear the Christmas Story this year when there are so few options in our community."

Thank you to all who volunteered to make this year's *Drive Through Nativity* a success! It is wonderful to be a part of the Briarwood Family who work so well together and do so with love. God used you in a great way to reach many people with the Gospel of Christ! Let's join together to praise God for the wonderful things He has done and also pray for all our guests who attended.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Benny Youngblood
Shepherding Team Pastor



Briarwood
Presbyterian Church, PCA

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Hallelujah! A Briarwood Christmas in Living Portraits

Briarwood's Music, Ballet and Drama Ministries present a concert of beloved classical and contemporary music of Advent, Dec. 20 at 6:00 p.m.

In-person reservations have been filled, but the presentation will be available online at briarwood.org/livetv and on Facebook, Roku, AppleTV and the Briarwood App.

Christmas Eve

Briarwood will offer five candlelight services this December 24.

Space remains for our Communion Candlelight services at 9:00 and 11:00 p.m., offering the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Elements are gluten-free, and an alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received.

Register now at briarwood.org/candlelight.

Watch the 5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service live at briarwood.org/livetv and on Facebook, Roku, AppleTV and the Briarwood App.

In accordance to the Book of Church Order the following men were elected by members of Briarwood Presbyterian Church on Dec. 13, 2020 for the offices of elder and deacon.

Deacons

Class of 2023: Trey Bragan, JD Bragan, Seth Acuff, Charles Alderman, Jeff Anderson, John Asbeck, Scott Austin, Allen Baker, Bob Bellows, Rob Butts, Joshua Calhoun, Dave Cooper Jr., Ed Corcoran, Larkin Delk, Richard Duell, David Duffee, Gary Durbin, Eric Evans, Jordan Freeman, Harrison Godwin, Ben (Ashley) Greene, Ben (Melody) Greene, Raymond Greer, Philip Holcombe, Gerald Jowers, Jonathan Kalehoff, Michael Murphree, Jeff Olin, Richard O'Neal, Jack Oswell, Larry Pirkle, Wes Pruet, Carter Ralph, Alan Russell, Harris Saunders, Wes Schaeffer, Mike Stewart, Nathan Terrell, Chuck Warlick, Chris White, Andrew Wilder, Lee Woodfin **Class of 2022:** Toby Potter

Elders

Class of 2023: Steve Abernathy, Bobby Bardin, Jim Bragan, Ed Chan, Tom Chappell, Will Clark, Neil Clay, Roy Costner, Glenn Draper, Dave Giddens, David Harris, Carter Harsh, Zach Ivey, Tom Jackson, Chung-How Kau, Walter Leveille, Sam Mooney, Loring Muir, Mike Mungenast, Jeff Newdome, Dave Proctor, Nathan Sasse, Keith Silliman, Tom Smitherman, Tank Tankersley

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.

December giving—we plan for a “double month”—please pray for the needed \$2.1 million for General Fund and Faith Promise commitments.



Celebration of Worship

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – December 20, 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

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 90:17

[All:] Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

"O Holy Night" (arr. Berg)

Ken Berg, soloist

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, our lives are fiercely fragmented, and 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 enjoy the peace we have with God through Your redeeming grace. 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

Will and Laura Clark (8:00)

Jeff and Christi Hill (9:30)

Nathan and Christian Terrell (11:00)

*The Greeting of Grace and Peace

*The Carol of Ascents

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Trinity Hymnal)

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels!

[Refrain:]

O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord!

[Men:]

God of God, Light of Light,

Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;

Very God, begotten not created: (Refrain-All)

[Women:]
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, in the highest: (Refrain-All)

[All:]
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)

*The Confession of Truth Westminster Larger Catechism, qq. 41, 42

[Leader:] *Why was our Mediator called Jesus?*

[All:] **Our Mediator was called Jesus, because He saves His people from their sins.**

[Leader:] *Why was our Mediator called Christ?*

[All:] **Our Mediator was called Christ, because He was anointed with the Holy Spirit above measure; and so set apart, and fully furnished with all authority and ability, to execute the offices of prophet, priest, and king of His church, in the estate both of His humiliation and exaltation.**

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

...I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people... 1 Timothy 2:1

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 Singing of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

"How Great Our Joy!" Carol 144 vv. 1, 4

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Carol 138 vv. 1, 3

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tiding brought an angel bright.

[Refrain:]

How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy—joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

This gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill. (Refrain)

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

[Refrain:] [Solo:]

*Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.*

[All:]

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

That Jesus Christ is born!

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof,
for correction, and for training in righteousness... II Timothy 3:16*

***The Prayer of Illumination**

***†The New Testament Reading**

Matthew 2:1-18

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

III. Advent in Biblical Perspective

The Kings of Christmas

“Herod the Great—The Real War on Christmas”

Matthew 2:1-18

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you all. II Corinthians 13:14*

***The Pastoral Benediction**

***The Congregational Affirmation**

“Doxology” (*Veni Emmanuel*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Postlude

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (*Mendlessohn*)

* 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.

EVENING SERVICE – 6:00 P.M.

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