



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

CHRIST SUNDAY

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – December 27, 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

*"I will tell of Your name to my brothers; in the midst
of the congregation I will sing Your praise." Hebrews 2:12*

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms Psalm 138:4-5

[All:] All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of Your mouth, and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession "Christmas Medley" (arr. Cason)

Almighty God, grant us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness. Place upon us the armor of light as we sojourn in this life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life everlasting, through Him Who lives and ever intercedes for us.

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading The Reeder Family

*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 Confession of Truth**

Revelation 17:14, 19:16

[Leader:] *They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him are called and chosen and faithful."*

[All:] **On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.**

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

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

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice... Psalm 5:3

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation! Psalm 95:1

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**

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" Carol 133

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Carol 141 v. 1

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

[Refrain:]

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. (Refrain)

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. (Refrain)

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow,
and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12*

*The Prayer of Illumination

*†The New Testament Reading

Selected Verses

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

IV. Advent in Biblical Perspective
The Kings of Christmas
"Jesus Christ—The King of Kings"
Selected Verses

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*...to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,
forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:21*

*The Pastoral Benediction

*The Congregational Affirmation

"Lead On, O King Eternal" Hymn 483 v. 1

Lead on, O King Eternal, The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest Your tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation Your grace has made us strong,
And now, O King Eternal, We lift our battle song.

The Postlude

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" (Smart)

* 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.

"Conversations with Harry and Bruce"

available online at briarwood.org/livetv, on the BriarwoodPCA App
and on Roku, Facebook and AppleTV

Watch all services anytime at briarwood.org/archivetv and on Facebook and Vimeo.
Sermons can be seen on the Briarwood YouTube channel, and sermon transcriptions
may be found at briarwood.org/sermons.

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord! *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!* Luke 2:14

Pray for those who know Jesus and for those who have not made that decision yet. Pray God's love will shine on all of us as He rejoices with us in our remembrance of Jesus' birth.

Pray for French Camp Academy, a Christ-centered home and school existing to serve young people and families for the glory of God. Pray for Sylvia and Tom Dickson ministering to students and families, and pray for students as they hear the life changing message of Christ. (*The flag of Mississippi is featured in today's worship service.*)

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

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

Men of the Covenant and Women of the Covenant studies for the winter/spring begin the week of January 11. Some studies are virtual and some are in-person, but all require registration in order to participate. Ladies, go to briarwood.org/women, click the link to Spring Studies and read a description for each of the studies being offered. You can also register online while you are there. Watch for the Men's studies and registration to be posted soon to briarwood.org/men. Make 2021 a year of spiritual growth by choosing the study that's right for you!

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.

Please continue bringing non-perishable foods for the Community Food Drive 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.

Our Church Family

Hospitalized: Gary Boyd, Tom Lile, Herbert Osborne, John Thornton

We rejoice with Graham and Laura Kirkpatrick on the birth of their daughter, Lucy Ellen, on Nov. 23; and with Daniel and Marianna Friday on the birth of their son, Cooper Luke, on Dec. 17, and with grandparents, Ken and Carolyn Friday.

Our love and sympathy to Dale, John, Julietta, Charlotte and Jacob Scruggs and family on the death of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Nancy Scruggs, on Dec. 16; to Jeannette Minor and family on the death of her mother, Isabelle Sexton, on Dec. 17; to the family of member Dicky Dubose on his death on Dec. 18; to Chris Taylor and family on the death of her mother, Patricia Rath, on Dec. 19; to Billy and Andy Buck and family on the death of their father and grandfather, member Bill Buck, Sr., on Dec. 21; and to Teresa, Luke, Jake and Shelly Proctor and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Charlotte Howard, on Dec. 22.

Announcements

The church and school offices will be closed Fri., Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday.

The church gates will close on Thurs., Dec. 31, gates at 9:00 p.m. and re-open on Sat., Jan. 2 at 5:30 a.m.

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

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

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.

GriefShare • If you or someone you know is adjusting to the death of a loved one, join us for a 13-session Zoom class starting Jan. 13. Call Pastoral Care at 205-776-5227 for more information.

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.

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.

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.

Current Job opportunities:

Church Grounds. Full-time, hours are 7:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. Includes benefit package. Contact Robert Clifton at rclifton@briarwood.org or 205-776-5234 for more information or to apply.

Facilities. Full-time, second-shift position. Hours are 2:00–10:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. Saturday night overtime shifts are available. Main duties are classroom setup and breakdown with some minor cleaning. Full benefit package. For more information or to apply, contact Dale Keller at dkeller@briarwood.org or 205-776-5231.

Facilities Scheduling Coordinator. Seeking a person able to communicate effectively, have an attention to details, and a proficient knowledge of Microsoft Office. In addition, multi-tasking and the ability to problem solve is essential. This is a full-time position with benefits. contact Steve Goebel at 205-776-5230 or sgoebel@briarwood.org to apply.

Shepherding Team Administrative Assistant. Seeking a Briarwood member for a full-time position with benefits. Applicant must have proficient knowledge of Microsoft Office, effective organization and excellent communication skills. Please send résumé to Benny Youngblood at byoungblood@briarwood.org or call 205-776-5321.