

THE BRIARWOOD WEEKLY

• DECEMBER 4, 2020 •



One of my favorite phrases comes from the Luke's account of Advent when he quotes Mary's response to the angel, "I am the servant of The Lord; let it be to me according to Your Word." Now that is the perspective of a faithful steward! I have hoped and prayed that the Coronavirus would be long gone by the time we celebrate Christmas but that does not appear to be the will of our Lord. So as faithful stewards we are seeking to embrace the circumstances He has placed before us as we faithfully proclaim, share and celebrate the Good News of great joy trusting Him for eternal fruit.

As you know, our Nativity has been adjusted to a Drive Through Nativity in order to safely portray and proclaim the Gospel. Our *Hallelujah!* celebration with our Choir, Orchestra, Ballet and Drama Ministries will be presented both Saturday and Sunday nights, December 19 and 20. And Lord willing, we will have five services on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Our Family Candlelight services will be at 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. and our Communion Candlelight services will be at 9:00 and 11:00 p.m. In order to provide safe social distancing everyone will need a reservation to attend. Reservations for the Christmas Eve services will be available on our website beginning Monday, Dec. 7 at 8:00 a.m. at briarwood.org/candlelight. With five options, please make sure that you make your reservation for the service of your choice.

Joy to the World—The Lord is come!

Bruce Stallings, Executive Pastor



Briarwood
Presbyterian Church, PCA

2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, AL 35243
205.776.5200 • info@briarwood.org
briarwood.org

CONVERSATIONS

WITH HARRY AND BRUCE

Pastor Reeder and Bruce Stallings
answer questions submitted to
askthepastor@briarwood.org
this Sunday night at 6:00 p.m.

Available on briarwood.org, Facebook,
Roku, AppleTV and the Briarwood App.

Drive Through NATIVITY

Join us 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.

Wednesday,
Thursday & Friday
December 9, 10, 11
6:45–8:45 p.m.

Please download the BriarwoodPCA app to be prepared to hear the narration of the greatest Story ever told!



This dramatic presentation by our Music, Ballet and Drama Ministries will be 6:00 p.m. Dec. 19 and 20, and includes beloved classic and contemporary music of Advent.

Reservations are required for this free concert, and can be made at briarwood.org/hallelujah.

The Sunday presentation will also be available online at briarwood.org/livetv.

✓ vote

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



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.



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.