

Briarwood

Presbyterian Church, PCA



For God's glory

We are committed to equipping

Christians to worship God

and to reach Birmingham

to reach the world for Christ



Celebration of Worship

ASCENSION SUNDAY

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – May 16, 2021

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 2:44-6

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 24:3-4

[All:] Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

"Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord?" (arr. Haines)

Audrey Jowers, soloist; String Ensemble

O Lord, unto You I lift my soul! I praise You that You have granted me mercy and forgiveness through the sacrifice of Your perfect Son on my behalf at Calvary's cross. I come today with thanksgiving in my heart and praise upon my lips for the sustaining grace that You supply each day through the work of Your Holy Spirit in my life. Complete that work of redemption and sanctification, drawing me ever closer to my Savior. Grant to me a deep and abiding love for You, for Your Word, and for Your Church, that I might order my steps in a manner that pleases You and brings glory to You alone. Receive my praise this day as I offer it in Jesus' name, Amen.

The Invocation

The Gospel Word of Salvation

*The Greeting of Grace and Peace

*The Hymn of Ascents

"Crown Him With Many Crowns" Hymn 234

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne:
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love: Behold His hands and side—
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life: Who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n: One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him giv'n From yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise, For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days Adored and magnified. Amen!

***The Confession of Truth**

The Apostles' Creed

[Leader:] *Christian, what do you believe?*

[All:] I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *universal

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

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

The Recognition of Graduates

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 9:7

The Musical Offering of Worship

"Great Are You, Lord" (Ingram)

[Solo:]

*You give life, You are love; You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope; You restore Every heart that is broken. Great are You, Lord.*

[All:]

*You give life, You are love. You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope; You restore Every heart that is broken. Great are You, Lord.*

[Chorus:]

*It's Your breath in our lungs, So we pour out our praise, We pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs, So we pour out our praise to You only.*

*And all the earth will shout Your praise; Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
Great are You, Lord! (Repeat) (Chorus)*

Great are You, Lord!

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

"Christ Is Mine Forevermore"

[Solo:]

*Mine are days that God has numbered; I was made to walk with Him.
Yet I look for worldly treasure and forsake the King of Kings.
But mine is hope in my Redeemer though I fall, His love is sure;
For Christ has paid for every failing; I am His forevermore.*

[All:]

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood;
Through the valley I must travel where I see no earthly good.
But mine is peace that flows from heaven and the strength in times of need;
I know my pain will not be wasted—Christ completes His work in me.

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on the narrow way.
One with Christ I will encounter harm and hatred for His name.
But mine is armour for this battle, strong enough to last the war;
And He has said He will deliver safely to the golden shore.

And mine are keys to Zion city where beside the King I walk;
For there my heart has found its treasure—Christ is mine forevermore.

[Solo:]

*Come rejoice now, O my soul for His love is my reward;
Fear is gone and hope is sure—Christ is mine forevermore.
Come rejoice now, O my soul for His love is my reward;
Fear is gone and hope is sure—Christ is mine forevermore.*

[All:]

Come rejoice now, O my soul for His love is my reward;
Fear is gone and hope is sure—Christ is mine forevermore.
And mine are keys to Zion city where beside the King I walk;
For there my heart has found its treasure—Christ is mine forevermore.
Christ is mine forevermore.

[Solo:]

Christ is mine forevermore.

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

Romans 2:1-11

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

XI. Romans in Biblical Perspective

The Gospel of God

“From the Present Wrath of God to the Eternal Wrath of God

Amplifying the Grace of God”- Part 2

Romans 2:1-11

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

And now I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace... Acts 20:32a

*The Pastoral Benediction

*The Congregational Affirmation “*This is My Father's World*” Trinity Hymnal, v. 3

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;

His hand the wonders wrought

The Postlude

“*Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*” (Newton)

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord! O LORD, our LORD, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens. Psalm 8:1

Pray for our teachers and students as they finish this challenging year. Pray especially for seniors at Briarwood and other schools in our city.

Pray for Doug and Pam Nuenke and the US Leadership team with The Navigators as they continue to work through the ongoing challenges coming out of the past year with COVID. Pray for wisdom, discernment, and refreshment as they give leadership. (*The flag of Colorado is featured in today's worship service.*)

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

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

In light of developments within Christianity and our own denomination, the PCA, Pastor Reeder begins an important summer sermon series tonight at 6:00 p.m., "Progressive Christianity in Biblical Perspective." Read Galatians 1:6-10 to prepare for this critical message and series, and attend in-person or online at briarwood.org/livetv, or on Facebook, Roku, AppleTV or the BriarwoodPCA App.

Are you interested in volunteering at VBS June 7-11 from 9:30 a.m. to noon each day? Contact Raleigh Macoy at rmacoy@briarwood.org or email Alison Craig for the nursery at acraig@briarwood.org. Briarwood members are encouraged to register their children and a guest now! If you didn't receive the all-member email, contact Raleigh Macoy for the registration link at rmacoy@briarwood.org.

This month we are accepting nominations for officer candidates (deacons and elders) for the class of 2024. It is a very important duty that we have as members and leaders to nominate quality men for these offices. Each year, the Briarwood membership and existing leadership engages in this process of nomination, training, examination, election, ordination and installation. We would ask that you pray diligently and thoughtfully in consideration of names of men that you know who meet the criteria for officers laid out in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Read the brochure on our website at briarwood.org/nominations and then submit qualified names by using the online form found at the bottom of that page or by sending an email to lreese@briarwood.org.

Our Church Family

Hospitalized: Ruthie Acton, Lois Bush, Hal Clark

We rejoice with David and Mallory Marshall of the birth of their daughter, Elisabeth Evangeline, on May 7.

Our love and sympathy to French Jr., French III, French and Andrew Forbes and family on the death of their wife, mother and grandmother, member Mary Anne Forbes, on May 6.

Announcements

2021 Seniors—We will be recognizing and praying for our seniors in each of this morning's morning worship services. Additionally, Briarwood families should have received a list of our seniors and their schools in the mail this week, and it is also available to view online at briarwood.org/bulletin. Please use this as a prayer guide to lift up this next generation and their impact for God's Kingdom.

Nursery weekday drop-in is now open for Briarwood members on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Go to briarwood.org/nursery for information.

A reminder that the Briarwood Christian Bookstore and Church Library are both open on Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Or you may make purchases by calling 205-776-5210, emailing bookstore@briarwood.org, or shopping online by going to briarwood.org/webstore. The Bookstore can either mail your orders to you or provide convenient pickup at the church.

Community Food Drive—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.

Briarwood continues to provide streaming online of our Sunday morning worship at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. and the evening service at 6:00 p.m. Both morning worship services are available on WLJR-FM 88.5, and you can watch all 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.

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.

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.

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Job openings:

Special Connections Ministry Director. Full-time position for an experienced and compassionate leader. The candidate should have the education, training and skills to include a biblical reformed framework of disabilities and an understanding of physical, mental and sensory disabilities; as well as a heart for and skills to minister well to those with disabilities and their family. The Director will serve as a member of Briarwood Church and on the Shepherding Team. Interested candidates should send résumé to Patti Claud at pclaud@briarwood.org or call 205-776-5282.

Other job opportunities are currently available with several Briarwood ministries. See the listing at briarwood.org/employment with details on the positions as well as how to apply.