

FOR  
TO US A  
CHILD IS  
BORN, TO US A  
SON IS GIVEN; AND  
THE GOVERNMENT  
SHALL BE UPON HIS  
SHOULDER, AND HIS NAME  
SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL  
COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD,  
EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF  
PEACE.

*Briarwood*  
Presbyterian Church



# Celebration of Worship

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## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – November 28, 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

*For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them. Matthew 18:20*

#### The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 98:4

[All:] **Make a joyful noise to the LORD all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

#### The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

“Gesu Bambino” (Yon)

*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

Kirk and Marion Petty (8:00)

Nick and Alison Hill (10:50)

#### \*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** Westminster Shorter Catechism, qq. 21-23

[Leader:] *Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?*

[All:] **The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person for ever.**

[Leader:] *How did Christ, the Son of God, become man?*

[All:] **Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to Himself a body and a soul like ours, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.**

[Leader:] *What offices does Christ fill as our Redeemer?*

[All:] **Christ as our Redeemer fills the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, in His states both of humiliation and exaltation.**

## THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

*They will call upon My name, and I will answer them. Zechariah 13:9*

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

## THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

*Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth. Isaiah 12:5*

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 Offertory

*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"* (French Melody)  
Angela Yoon, soloist

**\*The Season of Worship through the Carols of Christmas**

*"What Child Is This?"* Carol 137

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

*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 Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 9

**The Exposition of God's Word**

Pastor Reeder

I. Advent in Biblical Perspective

*The Messiah King*

“The Messiah King and His Kingdom”

Isaiah 9

## THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts  
and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7*

**\*The Pastoral Benediction**

**\*The Congregational Affirmation**

“*The Doxology*” (Veni, Emmanuel)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all people here below;

Praise Him above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel Shall come to Thee, O Israel!

**The Postlude**

“*Beautiful Savior*” (Anonymous)

\*The congregation is requested to stand, if able.

† K4-3rd grade dismiss to the Children's Auditorium for Children's Worship. Following the 8:00 service, Children's Worship participants will be escorted to their Sunday School rooms. Following the 10:50 service, please pick up K4-3rd grade children in the Children's Auditorium.

A Prayer Team is available following both morning services just to the right of the pulpit platform.

The 8:00 a.m. service is also “signed” each week in the Worship Center. Both Sunday morning services are broadcast live on WLJR 88.5 FM, and available online at [briarwood.org/livetv](http://briarwood.org/livetv).

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Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version.

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## EVENING SERVICE – 6:00 P.M.

*A Service of Ordination for Stephen King*

Leadership in Biblical Perspective

*A Service of Ordination*

“Leadership Counts”

Various Texts

Pastor Reeder

# Prayers *and* Praises

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

Pray for the Children's Choir performance on Sunday, December 5. Pray for the children as they sing praises to our Lord and lift our hearts to Him.

Pray for the Briarwood Annual International Christmas party on December 3. Families and students from all around the world will be coming for fellowship and to hear the true meaning of Christmas. Pray for soft hearts and for God's Spirit to call many to Himself through this time. (*The flag of Birmingham is featured in today's worship service.*)

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

## Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

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Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone special to decorate the Worship Center for Christmas. Cost is \$20 per plant/dedication. You can purchase online at [briarwood.org/poinsettia](http://briarwood.org/poinsettia) or by filling out an envelope in the Membership Office during office hours. Deadline to purchase is next Sun., Dec. 5.

Ponder in front of the manger, imagine yourself as a shepherd, or reflect beside the cross as you walk through the Briarwood Walk Through Nativity. As one of Birmingham's most poignant Christmas depictions, it is an exciting, memorable way to share the story of our Savior's birth with friends and family. For three days—Dec. 8, 9, and 10 from 6:45–8:45 p.m.—thousands of people will stroll the quarter-mile walk of 12 scenes with live actors and animals. Volunteers are still needed! Sign-up today—call 205-776-5251; visit [briarwood.org/nativity](http://briarwood.org/nativity); or go to More/Forms on the Briarwood App. Yard signs and postcards are available at the church exits.

Long before the angelic proclamation to the hillside shepherds, the Promise of Christmas was in the heart of God. The Promise was first whispered in the Garden, then echoed by the prophets until it finally rang out from the sky above Bethlehem. Come as the Briarwood Ballet presents the "Eternal Light" Sun., Dec. 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Make Nursery reservations at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).

## Our Church Family

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Hospitalized: Banks Farris, Donna Moore, Jennie Stone, Sharon Huffstutler

Our love and sympathy to Tina Goebel and family on the death of her mother, Hanna Jadick, on Nov. 18; to Bobby and Benny Park and family on the death of their mother, member Ann Parks, on Nov. 18; to Wayne Scotch and family on the death of his brother, Joe Scotch, Jr., on Nov. 20; and to April Jeff and family on the death of her grandmother, Gaynelle Lusk, on Nov. 23.

We rejoice with Nick and Susan Maxey on the birth of their daughter, Sanders Evan, on Nov. 1; and with Micah and Brianna Evans on the birth of their son, Andrew Augustine, on Nov. 3.

# Announcements

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**Today is the first Sunday of Advent**—Come by the Bookstore to select a devotional to prepare your heart for Christmas. The Briarwood Christian Bookstore has Pastor Reeder's Advent recommendations: *The Christmas Code* by O.S. Hawkins, *Dawn of Redeeming Grace* by Sinclair Ferguson, and *Tracing Glory* by Sarah Rice. Extended holiday shopping hours are Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Saturday Closed, and Sun. 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

**Children's Christmas Program**—Sunday, Dec. 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Come hear the Children's Choirs of Briarwood as they bless us and begin our Christmas season! Make Nursery reservations at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).

**Mark your calendar for Christmas at Briarwood.** See a full schedule of events at [briarwood.org/advent](http://briarwood.org/advent).

**Community Food Drive**—Bring your non-perishable food donations to the marked trailer in Parking Lot-B, 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.

**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](mailto:dmatthews@briarwood.org).

**Praise Team Band and Singers**—The Briarwood Worship and Music Ministry has openings for singers and band members. If you are a Briarwood member and would like to schedule an audition, contact John Haines at 205-612-5199 or [jhaines@briarwood.org](mailto:jhaines@briarwood.org).

**Come sing with the Sanctuary Choir!** Help lead worship on Sundays as well as sing in the December Christmas Pageant. Rehearsal is on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room on the second floor behind the Worship Center. Go to [signupforchoir.com](http://signupforchoir.com) for more.

**Nursery needs bags**—We are in desperate need of your Walmart/Publix type plastic bags. Please leave them anytime at/on the brown Nursery desk in the Chapel Lobby.

**27th Annual Meadow Brook Runs**—Sat., Dec. 18 to benefit the Jesus Video Project of Alabama. Start times: 5K at 9:00 a.m. and 1-mile Fun Run at 10:00 a.m. Walkers and pets on leash welcome. Go to [meadowbrookruns.org](http://meadowbrookruns.org).

**New Job openings**—

**Special Connections Ministry Director.** An experienced and compassionate leader is needed for this full-time position. 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. They should have a heart for and skills to minister well to those with disabilities and their family. Other abilities needed include management skills, sound Bible knowledge, personal ministry experience of evangelism and discipleship, good communication skills and administration skills. They will serve as a member of Briarwood Church and on the Shepherding Team. Interested candidate should inquire with résumé to Patti Claud at [pclaud@briarwood.org](mailto:pclaud@briarwood.org) or call 205-776-5282.

**Communications Director.** This full-time position will oversee all aspects of communications at Briarwood, to include print, broadcast, A/V and internet. Strong English language and writing skills are essential as well as basic knowledge of Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Cloud software. Interested persons should submit their résumé to Matt Moore at [mmoore@briarwood.org](mailto:mmoore@briarwood.org).

**Music Worship Assistant.** Full-time position accountable directly to the Worship Pastor and has significant public worship leadership responsibilities. Contact Pastor Haines if interested at 205-612-5199 or [jhaines@briarwood.org](mailto:jhaines@briarwood.org).

**See all the current job opportunities** for Briarwood ministries and ministry partners at [briarwood.org/employment](http://briarwood.org/employment) to find details on open positions as well as how to apply.