

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – December 5, 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

'Gather the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words...' Deuteronomy 4:10

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 “Mary, Did You Know?” (Lowery)

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

Kevin and Deidre Lott (8:00)

Bryant and Stacy Moore (10:50)

The Receiving of New Members (10:50)

***The Greeting of Grace and Peace**

***The Carol of Ascents**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (arr. Krogstad)

Joel Megginson and Carrie Turner, soloists

[Choir:]

Let us adore Him. Let us adore Christ the Lord!

[Men:]

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

[All:]

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord!

[Women:]

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing all ye citizens of heaven above.

[All:]

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

[Men:]

O Come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

[All:]

O Come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord!

[Solo:]

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light:
The Angels sang the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced.
And at His blessed birth the stars their exaltation voiced.*

[All:]

O Come, let us adore Him;
O Come, let us adore Him;
O Come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord!

[Choir:]

Let us adore Him. Let us adore Christ, the Lord! Let us adore Him!

***The Confession of Truth**

James 1:5

[All:] If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

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

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

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2

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 Tithes 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 Season of Worship through the Carols of Christmas**

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

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

"There's Just Something About That Name"

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings 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!

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; there's just something about that name.
Master, Savior, Jesus, like the fragrance after the rain;
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, let all Heaven and earth proclaim—

Kings and kingdoms will all pass away,
But there's something about that name. (Repeat)

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 Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

II. Advent in Biblical Perspective

The Messiah King

“Wonderful Counselor”

Isaiah 9:1-7

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

For the Love of Christ controls us... II Corinthians 5:14a

*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

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” (Montgomery)

*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.

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

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord! *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* John 1:1

Pray for our Walk Through Nativity, December 8–10. Pray for those members serving in the presentation and for those attending, that their hearts will be touched and they will come to know Jesus.

Today 2,000 of 7,400 people groups have no scripture in their language. Mike Ball has worked at CRU with the Jesus Film Project for 27 years making media to reach people in their heart language. He recently joined Trans World Radio (TWR) to develop media products to reach people in Afghanistan in their own language. Pray for God's guidance for the Balls and TWR.

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

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 wheel chair and stroller friendly quarter-mile walk of twelve scenes with live actors and animals.

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.

Come experience Advent through the dramatic presentation of “Hallelujah! A Briarwood Christmas in Living Portraits” on Sun., Dec. 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. This gift of talents from our Music, Drama and Ballet Ministries will also include beloved classic and contemporary music of Advent. Nursery reservations can be made at briarwood.org/nursery.

Our Church Family

Hospitalized: Rodger Armbrester, Bill Feist, Jean Chase, Banks Farris, Steve Gathings, Paul Lawrence, Jennie Stone, Fred Yancey

Our love and sympathy to Jane Harris and family on the death of her sister, member Merle Coursey, on Nov. 26; and to the family of member Betty ‘BJ’ Watts on her death on Nov. 26.

Announcements

Members of the Budget Committee will be available tonight in A-105 at 5:00 p.m. to answer your questions regarding the 2022 Budget.

The Children's Christmas Program is tonight 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! Be sure to make Nursery reservations at briarwood.org/nursery.

Today is the deadline for Christmas poinsettias! Consider ordering one in memory or honor of someone to decorate the Worship Center. Cost is \$20 per dedication. Order online at briarwood.org/poinsettia by midnight. You may pick up your dedicated poinsettia any time after the evening service on Sun., Dec. 19 or Mon., Dec. 20 in the Worship Center.

Church Officer Elections will take place during morning worship Dec. 12. Ballots will be made available at the services. The 2022 Budget will also be received as information at 10:35 a.m. in the Worship Center.

Come shop extended holiday hours at the Briarwood Christian Bookstore: Mon.–Mon.–Fri. 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Saturday Closed, and Sun. 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Christmas at Briarwood is a wonderful time of year to share the Good News of our Savior. See a full schedule of events at 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.

Infant Baptism is offered in our Sunday morning services. Contact Marie Gathings at 205-776-5204 or mgathings@briarwood.org for available dates. Also if you are interested in a “New Believer” baptism, contact Wendy Long in the Membership Office at 205-776-5208.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study—Dave Matthews leads a study of Nehemiah in A-105-A on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

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.

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.

New Job openings—

CMMA Executive Director. Full-time position providing spiritual direction to healthcare students on campus and practitioners in the community through individual discipleship and small group studies, prioritizing missions through conference/guest speakers, coordinating various trips each year, raising needed support for the ministry to function effectively, providing training and oversight to staff associates, and serving on the Briarwood Staff Leadership Team. Interested individuals should contact Georgia Holdefer at gholdefer@briarwood.org.

Nursery Administrative Supervisor. This is a part-time job (25–30 hours) for a Briarwood Member that is interacting with parents, loving on children, and helping to support the Nursery Director with day-to-day needs. For more information contact Alison Craig at acriag@briarwood.org or 205-776-5214.

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