

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – December 12, 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

...in the great assembly I will bless the LORD. Psalm 26:12

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 97:1

[All:] The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice!

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession “In the Bleak Midwinter” (Holst)

Our glorious Savior and Redeemer, when the angels split open the skies over Bethlehem on that night long ago, their message was that of “Peace on earth!” Yet today, we are prone to wander from the very One who came to fulfill this promise to give us everlasting peace. Remind us anew, Lord, that the message the angels brought that night is one that can only be fulfilled as we yield our lives completely to You. As we prepare to celebrate Your birth, O Lord, may we be given a foretaste of the eternal peace that is yet to come.

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

Brent and Melanie Beth Gilbert (8:00)

Scott and Kellie Stewart (10:50)

*The Greeting of Grace and Peace

*The Carol of Ascents

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” Carol 133

[Choir:]

*For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given,
Unto us a Son is given: and his Name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, The Everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*

[All:]

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

Christ, by highest heaven 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.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

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

***The Confession of Truth**

Psalm 66:1-4; 24:7-8

[Leader:] *Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise! Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that your enemies come cringing to You.*

[All:] **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.**

[Leader:] *Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?*

[All:] **The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

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

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

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

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

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

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

"Ten Thousand Joys"

Audrey Jowers and Darryl Stracner, soloists

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

"Angels We Have Heard on High" Carol 132 vv. 1, 2

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Carol 123 vv 1, 4

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echo back their joyous strains.

[Refrain:]

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, Which inspire your heav'nly song? (Refrain x2)

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

[Refrain:]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)

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 Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

III. Advent in Biblical Perspective

The Messiah King

"Mighty God"

Isaiah 9:1-7

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1*

*The Pastoral Benediction

*The Congregational Affirmation

"The First Noel" Carol 136 v. 6

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

The Postlude

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (Barnes)

*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.

EVENING WORSHIP – 6:00 P.M.

Briarwood Ballet presents



Prayers and Praises

Praise the Lord! *For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* Luke 2:11

Pray for those who attended the Walk through Nativity. Pray if they have not yet received Jesus that God will touch their hearts and they will come to Him as Lord and Savior. Also remember the Briarwood Ballet in tonight's concert, that their worship in dance will be pleasing to God.

Pray for church planters Joel and Jamie Irvin in Elkart, Indiana. Pray they will establish a faithful and fruitful God-glorifying church that is Christ-centered, Spirit led, and dependent upon the outward and ordinary means of grace.

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

Opportunities for Ministry and Growth

Be sure to return this evening at 6:00 p.m. for Briarwood Ballet's presentation of "Light Eternal." Long before the angelic proclamation to the hillside shepherds, the Promise of Christmas was in the heart of God. First whispered in the Garden, then echoed by the prophets, this Promise was finally declared from the sky above Bethlehem in brilliant light. Come celebrate the Eternal Light of God that has come into our world—indeed into our own hearts. There is no admission fee and the nursery is available with reservations at briarwood.org/nursery.

Invite your friends and family to Briarwood's 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 include beloved classic and contemporary music of Advent. Nursery reservations can be made at briarwood.org/nursery.

As you reflect on the birth of Jesus with your family this year, make the Briarwood Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, a part of your celebration. There will be two family services at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m., with Nursery available by reservation at briarwood.org/nursery. A more intimate Candlelight Communion service will be observed at 11:00 p.m. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free. What a memorable way to help your family focus your Christmas celebration on the One whose birthday we celebrate!

Our Church Family

Hospitalized: Bill Feist, Banks Farris, Beverly Nevins, Lynda Robertson, Jennie Stone, Cathy Ware

Our love and sympathy to Diane Eaton and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Jim Davis, on Dec. 1; to Bob and Johnnie Kay Wolf, Janice Bricker and family on the death of their son and grandson, John Wolf, on Dec. 5.

Announcements

Church Officer Elections take place this morning during worship for Briarwood members in good standing. Ballots are available in 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.

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 kbvice@briarwood.org.

Year-End Giving—The Accounting Office will close for the year on Dec. 31 at 5:00 p.m. The church will be closed, as will the Altadena Road entrance gate, so please use the Acton Road entrance and enter through the door closest to the Accounting Office on the Administration Building side. Contributions received in the mail must be postmarked or cancelled by Dec. 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2021. Contributions with Jan. 2022 postmarks will be considered 2022 contributions. When giving gifts of securities and to insure your contribution is processed accurately and efficiently, please notify Matt Moore, 205-776-5205, or Kim Vice, kbvice@briarwood.org, at the time of your gift.

PCA Christmas Offering will be taken at the Christmas Eve services. Through the Ministerial Relief Fund, the Christmas Offering provides monthly, supplemental income to our retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows and dependent children who have low income and meet the Relief Fund guidelines. Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews on Christmas Eve.

Sunday, December 26—There will be only one worship service at 10:00 a.m. with no Sunday School or evening service. The Bookstore will also be closed.

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.

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.

Financial Peace MidWeek Class beginning Jan. 12. Learn how to not have any more money stress! Tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went! Kick debt once and for all! Learn how to develop a solid financial plan of having an emergency fund, paying off debt, and building savings. Registration important. Contact Dave Matthews at dmatthews@briarwood.org.

New Job openings—

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.

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.