

THE

# BRIARWOOD WEEKLY

• DECEMBER 17, 2021 •



*hallelujah*

"Hallelujah! *A Briarwood Christmas in Living Portraits*" is greatly expanded this year in sight and sound. Come hear the Apostle Paul introduce the Scripture narrative of our Savior's birth, death and resurrection. We are featuring a new set; new music arrangements of everyone's Christmas favorites; new choreography from the Briarwood Ballet; full orchestra and our wonderful choir and soloist—but the same Good News of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is designed to be a worship concert that is elegant and festive, while being an inviting place to bring your guests. It is designed to be an engaging performance for children, as well. They will love all of the dramatic action inspired directly from the Christmas story they know and love from an early age. **Come join us Sunday night, Dec. 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center**; there's no admission fee, and not a bad seat in the house—I made sure of it! As always, it is my personal honor to serve the Lord well, by serving each of you well! Blessings on you,  
John Haines, Pastor of Worship



**Briarwood**  
Presbyterian Church, PCA

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[briarwood.org](http://briarwood.org)



# *Christmas Eve*

Friday, December 24

Family Candlelight Services • 3:00 and \*5:00 p.m.

Nursery reservation at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).

\*Service also available via livestream

Candlelight Communion Service • 11:00 p.m.

Mercy Ministry alms offering will be received.

Elements are gluten-free.

*Sunday, December 26 • 10:00 a.m.*

One morning service, no Sunday School  
or evening worship. Bookstore will be closed.

January 2 will be normal schedule.



*Merry Christmas from the staff of  
Briarwood Bookstore!*

From Briarwood  
to Alabama  
to the United States,  
Africa and "Ephesus,"  
we love to honor the  
artistic gifts the Lord  
has bestowed upon our  
brothers and sisters  
in Christ and offer  
them as gifts for you  
and your loved ones.

Last shopping day  
at the Bookstore  
is Wed., Dec. 22  
and closed  
Sun., Dec. 26.

The church and school offices will be closed for Christmas Thurs., Dec. 23 and Fri., Dec. 24; then again for the New Year holiday on Fri., Jan. 1.

The gates will close at 9:00 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 22 and re-open at 1:00 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 24. They will close following the 11:00 p.m. communion service, and re-open on Sun., Dec. 26 at 5:30 a.m. On Thurs., Dec. 30, gates will close at 9:00 p.m. and re-open on Sun., Jan. 2 at 5:30 a.m.

## *Year-End Giving*

The Accounting Office will close for the year on Fri., Dec. 31 at 5:00 p.m.

The church will be closed, as well 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 Fri., Dec. 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2021. Contributions with January 2022 postmarks will be considered 2022 contributions.

When giving gifts of securities and to insure your contribution is processed accurately and efficiently, notify Matt Moore, 205-776-5205, or Kim Vice, kbvice@briarwood.org, at the time of your gift.

## *PCA Christmas Offering*

Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews on Christmas Eve

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.



# Celebration of Worship

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MORNING SERVICES OF DIVINE WORSHIP – December 19, 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

*I will thank You in the great congregation; in the mighty throng I will praise You. Psalm 35:18*

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 103:17-18

[All:] The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

“He Is Born” (French Carol)

*Almighty God, grant us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness. Place upon us the armor of light as we sojourn in this life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life everlasting, through Him Who lives and ever intercedes for us.*

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

Jason and Kessley Crowe (8:00)

Thomas and Rose Garner (10:50)

\*The Greeting of Grace and Peace

\*The Carol of Ascents

“The First Noel” Carol 133 vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

[Refrain:]

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

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full rev'rently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)

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. (Refrain)

**\*The Confession of Truth**

Colossians 1:15-20

[Leader:] *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

[All:] **And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.**

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

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

**THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE**

*...I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings  
be made for all people... I Timothy 2:1*

**The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession**

**THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY**

*Praise the LORD! It is good to sing praises to our God... Psalm 147:1a*

**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 Offertory**

*"Song of the Savior" (Stortz-Marshall arr./orch. Haines)  
Kellie Stewart and Shane Davis, soloists*

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

*"Good Christian Men, Rejoice" Carol 151 • "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Carol 143*

Good Christian men, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: News! news!

Jesus Christ is born today!

Ox and ass before Him bow, And He is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;

Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! joy!

Jesus Christ was born for this!

He hath opened heaven's door, And man is blessed forevermore:

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;

Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! peace!

Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all To gain His everlasting hall:

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the Babe was born for you. Christ the Babe was born for you.

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22*

**\*The Prayer of Illumination**

**\*†The Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 9:1-7

**The Exposition of God's Word**

Pastor Reeder

IV. Advent in Biblical Perspective

*The Messiah King*

“Everlasting Father”

Isaiah 9:1-7

## 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** “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen” Trinity Hymnal

God rest you 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;

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,

O tidings of comfort and joy.

**The Postlude**

“Christmas Oratorio” (Saint-Saëns)

\*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 WORSHIP – 6:00 P.M.



*“A Briarwood Christmas in Living Portraits”*