

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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## 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 preeminent. 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”*

# Prayers and Praises

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Praise the Lord! *From the wise men: Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.* Matthew 2:2

Be in prayer that those reached in our music program this Sunday night as well as those who attend our Christmas Eve services will be drawn to a closer relationship with Jesus.

After planting the First Presbyterian Church of Norway (FPCN), Matt and Deborah Stanghelle have been leading church plant team for a new church in the southeast mountains. They have begun the process to register Norway's first Presbyterian denomination. Pray God will grant wisdom and blessing in all aspects of the process.

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

## Opportunities for Ministry and Growth

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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](http://briarwood.org/nursery). The 5:00 p.m. service is also available via livestream. 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!

Come Dec. 26 for the final Sunday of Advent. We will have one morning service at 10:00 a.m. with no Sunday School or evening worship. The Bookstore will also be closed. On Sun., Jan. 2, we will be worshipping on a normal schedule.

Be a blessing to others in need through the PCA Christmas Offering. Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews on Christmas Eve to give during the 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.

## Our Church Family

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Hospitalized: Melinda Blackmon, Bill Feist, Banks Farris, Beverly Nevins, Bob Ryan, Jennie Stone, Cathy Ware

We rejoice with Luke and August Griffith on the birth of their daughter, Gracie Rhea, on Nov. 8; and with Cory and Miller Hershey on the birth of their son, Henry Hershey, on Dec. 12.

Our love and sympathy to Nancy Christie and family on the death of her sister, member Cile Leach, on Dec. 12.

# Announcements

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**Invite your friends and family** to “Hallelujah! A Briarwood Christmas in Living Portraits” tonight 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](http://briarwood.org/nursery).

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

**The Briarwood Christian Bookstore extended holiday hours will end** this Wed., Dec. 22 and will be closed on Sun., Dec. 26. Shop Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Saturday Closed, and Sun. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Holiday Gate Schedule**—The gates at the church 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. See below for the Dec. 31 year-end giving schedule.

**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.

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

**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.

**Holiday Soccer Camp**—Dec. 28-30 from 9:00 a.m.-noon. Open to all children ages 7-12. Register at [briarwoodsoccer.com](http://briarwoodsoccer.com) or call 205-776-5114.

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

**New Job openings**—

**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.