

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

CHRIST SUNDAY

MORNING SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP – December 26, 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

Please adjust all electronic devices so as not to interrupt the service.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation... Psalm 40:9

The Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 138:4-5

[All:] All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of Your mouth, and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

The Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession “Mary, Did You Know?” (Lowery)

Our great God, Sovereign of the universe, creator of all that is, we come before You today humbled that You have deigned to condescend to us, and not only love us with an everlasting love, but redeem us from our sin and ourselves through the blood of Your perfect and spotless Son, Jesus Christ. Hear us now as we confess our sins to You and prepare to worship You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

The Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

The Reeder Family

*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

The Nicene Creed

[Leader:] *Christians, what do we believe concerning God, the Father?*

[All:] **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

[Leader:] *Christians, what do we believe concerning God, the Son?*

[All:] We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all the worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

[Leader:] *Christians, what do we believe concerning God, the Holy Spirit?*

[All:] We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. *universal

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice... Psalm 5:3

The Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

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

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

*"Sweet Little Jesus Boy" (MacGimsey)
Hunter Goff, soloist*

*The Season of Worship through the Carols of Christmas"

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Carol 128 • "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" Carol 133 •
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Carol 141 v. 1*

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, From heav'n's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

Still thru the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heav'n and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song Which now the angels sing.

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!"

[Refrain:]

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

Christ, by highest heav'n 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. (Refrain)

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. (Refrain)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me Your statutes! Psalm 119:12

***The Prayer of Illumination**

***†The Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 9:1-7

The Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

V. Advent in Biblical Perspective

The Messiah King

"Prince of Peace"

Isaiah 9:1-7

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 1:3

***The Pastoral Benediction**

***The Congregational Affirmation**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Willcocks)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

[Chorus:]

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

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n; Word of the Father,

now in flesh appearing! (Chorus)

The Postlude

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (Mendelssohn)

*The congregation is requested to stand, if able.

† K4-3rd grade dismiss to the Children's Auditorium for worship. Pick up children there following service.

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

Service is broadcast live on WLJR 88.5 FM, and available online at briarwood.org/livetv.

Prayers *and* Praises

Praise the Lord! *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.* John 1:1-3

Pray for Briarwood families who will be traveling over the holiday to be safe and healthy. May the Lord provide opportunities for them to be able to share Jesus.

Pray for Dan and Peggy Ruppel and their Mastermedia International team as they build longstanding relationships with influential media leaders. Pray as they enter into one-on-one confidential conversations that not only offer valued professional insights but also provide pathways that spark a work of redemption within their personal lives and the media they produce.

“Continue steadfastly in prayer...” Colossians 4:2a

Opportunities *for* Ministry *and* Growth

Make 2022 a year of spiritual growth by choosing a spring study that is right for you! Studies begin the week of January 10:

Ladies, go to briarwood.org/women now to see and register for one of the nine Women of the Covenant studies available. Studies are offered during the morning and evening, Monday through Thursday.

Men, choose from one of the four Men of the Covenant studies with early morning and lunchtime meeting time options. Go to briarwood.org/men to find the study details.

Bless those who are in need during this time of year by bringing non-perishable foods to the Community Food Drive. Drop off can be made to the marked trailer located in Parking Lot-B on 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.

Our Church Family

Hospitalized: Banks Farris, Beverly Nevins, Bob Ryan, Anna Mae Sullens, , Cathy Ware, Jerry Springfield, Stephen Greenall

We rejoice with Alex and Christie McKinney on the birth of their son, Gideon Alexander, on Dec. 15, with grandparents, John and Nancy Mansfield, and with great-grandmother, Jennie Stone.

Our love and sympathy to Kate Dale and family on the death of her grandmother, Mary Hart Lyle, on Dec. 15; with Bart and Jean Kidd and family on the death of her sister, Janice Kay Jackson, on Dec. 18 and his father, Travis Kidd Sr., on Dec. 19.

Announcements

The Briarwood Christian Bookstore is closed today.

The church and school offices will be closed Fri., Dec. 31 and Sat., Jan. 1 for New Year's.

Holiday Gate Schedule—The gates at the church will close Thurs., Dec. 30 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.

Holiday Soccer Camp—Dec. 28–30 from 9:00 a.m.–noon. Open to all children ages 7–12. Register at 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.

Prayer Vigil and Witness For Life—Sat., Jan. 15 at 10:45 a.m. at Planned Parenthood (1019 1st Ave. North, Birmingham). See birminghammarchforlife.com. Rain or shine, all are welcome!

New Job openings—

Children's Ministry Director. This person will implement and oversee a complete ministry to Children including: personal ministry, program development, volunteer recruiting and development, discipling, assisting parents, and developing and participating in a shepherding plan for the church's children. In addition, this person recruits, trains and oversees the Children's staff team responsible for various aspects of the ministry. This position reports to the Family Pastor and ministers alongside the Children's ministry staff. If you are interested, contact the Children's Ministry at 205-776-5301 or send résumé to lreese@briarwood.org.

Senior High Ministry Director. This person will implement and oversee a complete ministry to Senior High students including: personal ministry, programming, volunteer recruiting and development, discipling, assisting parents, and developing and participating in a shepherding plan for the church's High School students. In addition, this person is responsible for recruiting, training, and overseeing the four youth ministry staff. This position reports to the Family Pastor and ministers alongside the senior high staff. If you are interested, contact the Briarwood Student Ministry at 205-776-5269 or send résumé to jshaw@briarwood.org.

Church Grounds. Full-time, hours are 7:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. Includes benefit package. Contact Robert Clifton at rclifton@briarwood.org or 205-776-5234.

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.