



BRING THEM TO JESUS

ADVENT AT BRIARWOOD



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Morning Services of Divine Worship – November 27, 2022

Worship Leaders

Dr. Harry L. Reeder III, Pastor/Teacher

Mr. Bruce Stallings, Executive Pastor

Dr. John Haines, Worship Pastor

Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist

Rev. Daniel Cason, Pianist

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people,
and praise Him in the assembly of the elders. Psalm 107:32*

Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 98:4

All: Make a joyful noise to the LORD all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

"Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts"

Hunter Goff

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.

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle and Reading

Tony and Cissy Johnson (8:00)

David and Teresa Eyrich (10:55)

Greeting of Grace and Peace*

Carol of Ascents*

"Joy to the World" Carol 125

The Confession of Truth*

Isaiah 40:8–10

Leader: *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;*

All: Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

All: Praise be to God!

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

*I call upon You, for You will answer me, O God; incline Your ear to me;
hear my words. Psalm 17:6*

Ministry Opportunities for Prayer

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

Presentation and Consecration of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Musical Offering of Worship

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
Daniel Cason, Soloist
Sanctuary Choir and Praise Team

Season of Worship through a Carol of Christmas

"What Child Is This?" Carol 137
"Speak, O Lord"

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

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

Prayer of Illumination*

New Testament Reading*†

Luke 1:5–25

Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

I. Advent in Biblical Perspective

From No News to Good News

"The Angelic Ministry of Christmas – Zechariah"

Luke 1:5–25

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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

Pastoral Benediction*

Congregational Affirmation*

"The Doxology"

Postlude

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

*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 10:55 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.

Sunday morning services are broadcast live on WLJR 88.5 FM.

The 8:00 and 10:55 a.m. services are available online at briarwood.org/livestream.

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

FELLOWSHIP OF WORSHIP

Evening Service of Praise and Proclamation – 6:00 p.m.

Prelude John Haines

Welcome Taylor Barnes

Call to Worship Psalm 1:1–2

All: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.

Prayer of Invocation

Songs of Praise* *“Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”*
“Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”
Praise Team

Worshipping Family Register / Announcements

Offertory Prayer

Offertory *“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”*

Sermon and Scripture Pastor Reeder

VI. Zechariah In Biblical Perspective
The Gospel According to Zechariah
“Vision #2: The Vision of Horns and Craftsman”
Zechariah 1:18–21

Installation of Sunghoon Shin

Benediction* Reverend Sunghoon Shin

Doxology*

Postlude

GREETING FROM THE PASTOR

We’re delighted you are worshiping with us today. The entire Briarwood family is eager to greet you, answer any questions you may have and minister to you in any way. After the service, please stop by the foyer so that we may offer you a small gift to acknowledge your presence with us. I pray that this morning’s worship will be all about Him and not about us, and that it will draw you close to the Lord of the universe.

–Harry L. Reeder III, Pastor/Teacher

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Advent Recommendations from Pastor Reeder — Just as Mary prepared for Jesus, these books will help you, your family, and your neighbor prepare for Christ to be the center of your celebration. *Gifts of Grace* is a great adult or teen devotional that will build your anticipation for Christmas. *The God of Amazing Gifts* is a wonderful devotional for your family as it provides lots of interaction. *The Ultimate Christmas Wishlist* by evangelist Rico Tice is ideal to give away at Christmas to those seeking hope, peace, and purpose. Shop the Bookstore to select what's right for you! The online store is always open at briarwood.org/adventreading.

Budget Committee Meeting — Sunday, December 4 at 5:00 p.m. in A-105. Members of the Budget Committee will be available to answer questions regarding the 2022 Budget.

Food Drive — Sunday, December 4. Begin gathering your canned goods and non-perishables for Love in Action Ministries. That Sunday, you will leave your donations behind your vehicle for the Mercy Ministry Team to pick up while you are in church.

Christmas Poinsettias — On sale until Sunday, December 4. Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone this Advent season. The cost is \$20 per plant/dedication. Purchasing envelopes are available in the Worship Center Lobby Information Booth or you can order online at briarwood.org/poinsettia.

Congregational Meetings — The Session has called Congregational Meetings for Sunday, December 4 for the purpose of selecting officers for the Class of 2025 and Sunday, December 11 for the purposes of receiving the 2023 General Fund Budget and electing the slate of candidates receiving the highest number of votes on December 4. Both meetings will be from 8:00 a.m. to the conclusion of the 10:55 a.m. service. There will be a special order at 10:35 a.m. in the Worship Center on December 11 to receive the 2023 budget.

Trailblazers Day Trip — Tuesday, December 6 at 10:30 a.m. Join us for a Colonial Christmas lunch and tour at the American Village. Tickets are \$40 in the Bookstore. For information, contact Sharon at sjohnston@briarwood.org or 205-776-5320.

Worship Center Flowers — The flowers in the Worship Center and Lobby last Sunday were given to the glory of God from the funeral of Carolyn Crowe.

EMPLOYMENT & JOB OPENINGS

Briarwood Fellows Director. Full-time position directing the nine-month Fellows program for recent colleges graduates. Requires a college graduate, committed to the local church and passionate about monitoring. Contact Amy Lattner at alattner@briarwood.org.

Administrative Assistants & Part-time Staff — There are a number of full and part-time ministry positions open: International Outreach, Board Directed Ministries, Music Worship, Nursery, Special Connections Ministry, Briarwood Christian School and Church Facilities.

See all employment and job openings at briarwood.org/employment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Glory to God” — Children’s Christmas Choirs | December 4

Come Sunday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center to hear the Children’s Choirs of Briarwood as they bless us and begin our Christmas season!

Walk Through Nativity | December 7–9, 6:45–8:45 p.m.

Hundreds of Briarwood members depict the birth and life of our Lord in 14 biblical scenes with narrated drama using actors and live animals. The 1/4-mile stroll is wheelchair and stroller friendly. Stop by the Fellowship Hall on your way out for coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and fellowship. Admission is free. See details at briarwood.org/nativity.

“Emmanuel, God With Us” — Briarwood Ballet | December 11

Join the Briarwood Ballet Sunday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center, as they lead us in worship this Advent season with their presentation of “Emmanuel, God With Us.” More details online at briarwood.org/ballet.

“Hallelujah! The King Is Coming” — Briarwood Christmas Festival | December 18

Come experience Advent through the dramatic presentation of “Hallelujah! The King Is Coming” on Sunday, December 18. This gift of talents from our Music, Drama and Ballet Ministries will also include beloved music of Advent.

See Briarwood’s full Advent Schedule at briarwood.org/advent.

Make nursery reservations for Advent events at briarwood.org/nursery.

PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Local and Missions Prayer — Pray and thank God for the never-ending love He has given us through the life of Jesus our Savior and the ever-present love of His Holy Spirit. Be in prayer for our International Christmas party as we welcome many students and families from all over the world into our church to celebrate Christmas and share the Christmas message. Pray for their hearts to be softened and open as we follow up. (The flag of Birmingham is featured in today’s worship service.)

Members Hospitalized — Melinda Blackmon, Phillip Coker, Diana Faulkner, Bob Hand, Beth Payne, Victoria Tessin, Steve Greenall

Our love and sympathy to — Melissa Simmons and family on the death of her grandmother, Mary Frances Walker, on November 16.

We rejoice with — Nathan and Danae Lloyd on the birth of their daughter, Selah Victoria, on November 17, and with grandparents Tony and Julie Olmedo; and with Graham and Hayley Travers on the birth of their daughter, Elinor Rose, on November 21, and with grandparents Mark and Darby Travers, and great-grandparents Chuck and Alene Morgan.

email: info@briarwood.org — website: briarwood.org

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