



BRING THEM TO JESUS

ADVENT AT BRIARWOOD



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent – December 4, 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

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

Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 111:9

All: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!

Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

Briarwood Orchestra

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.

Choral Introit

"Glory to God in the Highest"

from Luke 2:14

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle and Reading

Jake and Shelley Bonds (8:00)

Andy and Christi Nichols (10:55)

Reception of New Members (10:55)

Greeting of Grace and Peace*

Carol of Ascents*

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Carol 124

The Confession of Truth*

The Trinitarian Apostles' Creed

Leader: *Christian, what do you believe concerning God the Father?*

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: *Christian, what do you believe concerning Christ the Son?*

All: I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

Leader: *Christian, what do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit?*

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 Tithes and Our Offerings

Musical Offering of Worship

"Sing to Jesus"
Elizabeth Jordan, Soloist

Season of Worship Through a Carol of Christmas

"How Great Our Joy!" Carol 144

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Carol 123

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 1:26–38

Exposition of God's Word

Pastor Reeder

II. Advent in Biblical Perspective

From No News to Good News

"The Angelic Ministry of Christmas – Mary"

Luke 1:26–38

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*...to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,
forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:21*

Pastoral Benediction*

Congregational Affirmation*

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Postlude

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

*The congregation is requested to stand, if able. **universal
†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.

Glory to God!



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIRS

Preschool Choir

Shanna Phillips, Director

"Celebrate Jesus' Birthday"

"In Bethlehem"

"Joy, Joy, Joy to the World"

"Peace On Earth Tonight"

"Dear Jesus"

"I'm Tellin'!"

1–6th Grade Choirs

Shane Davis, Director

"Caroling Song"

"Come Join the Angels"

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

"The Holly and the Ivy"

"Jesus Child"

"Glorious Light"

"Silent Night"

For more information on Children's Choirs go to
briarwood.org/childrenschoirs.

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 — 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 a lot 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.

Sunday School Winter Quarter — Starting today through February 26. See a listing of class subjects and teachers at briarwood.org/ss or pick up a copy at the information kiosks.

Budget Committee Meeting — Tonight at 5:00 p.m. in A-105. Members of the Budget Committee will be available to answer questions regarding the 2023 Budget.

Food Drive — Leave your donations behind your vehicle while you are in church today for the Mercy Ministry Team to pick up. Benefits Love in Action Ministries.

Christmas Poinsettias — Today is the last day to 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.

Bookstore Holiday Hours — Come shop our extended hours from December 5–22 on Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Saturday closed, and Sunday 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Lunch with Congressman Gary Palmer — Join Trailblazers on Sunday, December 11 at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we welcome Congressman Gary Palmer. Get your tickets (\$12) in the Bookstore or online at briarwood.org/trailblazers.

Congregational Meetings — The Session has called Congregational Meetings for today 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.

Worship Center Flowers — The flowers in the Worship Center are given to the glory of God in memory of Elsie Betsch.

EMPLOYMENT & JOB OPENINGS

International Outreach Administrative Assistants — Join the Missions Team serving our international congregations through this part-time position. Send inquiries and resumes to hmcdougall@briarwood.org.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Come this evening 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.

Christmas Eve Services — Advent at Briarwood | December 24

Join us this Christmas Eve for two Family Candlelight Services at 5:00 & 7:00 p.m. At 11:00 p.m. we will partake in the Lord’s Supper with a Candlelight Communion Service.

Christmas Day Worship Service — Advent at Briarwood | December 25

Worship with us on Christmas morning with one combined Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Congregational Communities will not meet on Christmas Day.

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 for our Father to call many to Himself by praying to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior this Christmas. Pray for the Angel Tree carnival on December 10 at Restoration Academy. Pray for the 33 families invited to come and hear the gospel shared by Urban Hope Community Church. (The flag of Birmingham is featured in today’s worship service.)

Members Hospitalized — Allison Barton, Melinda Blackmon, Hal Clark, Diana Faulkner, French Forbes III, Bob Hand, Joy Blazer

Our love and sympathy to — Vern Betsch and family on the death of his wife, member Elsie Betsch, on November 27.

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

2200 Briarwood Way — Birmingham, Alabama 35243 — 205-776-5200