



BRING THEM TO JESUS

ADVENT AT BRIARWOOD



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent – December 11, 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

I will thank You in the great congregation;

in the mighty throng I will praise You. Psalm 35:18

Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 97:1

All: The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice!

Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

Our glorious Savior and Redeemer, when the angels split open the skies over Bethlehem on that night long ago, their message was that of "Peace on earth!" Yet today, we are prone to wander from the very One who came to fulfill this promise to give us everlasting peace. Remind us anew, Lord, that the message the angels brought that night is one that can only be fulfilled as we yield our lives completely to You. As we prepare to celebrate Your birth, O Lord, may we be given a foretaste of the eternal peace that is yet to come.

Choral Introit

"Praise the Name, Emmanuel!"

Julia Ivey, Soloist & the Briarwood Youth Choir

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle and Reading

George and Brenda Harrick (8:00)

Michael and Anna Pair (10:55)

Greeting of Grace and Peace*

Carol of Ascents*

"The First Noel" Carol 136

The Confession of Truth*

John 1:1–4, 14

Leader: *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: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God!

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE
O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice... Psalm 5:3

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 *"Bethlehem Morning"*
Audrey Jowers, Korey Cox & Alonza Jones, Soloists, & the Sanctuary Choir

Season of Worship Through a Carol of Christmas

"Angels We Have Heard on High" Carol 132
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Carol 141

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD
Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me Your statutes! Psalm 119:12

Prayer of Illumination*

New Testament Reading*† Matthew 1:18–25

Exposition of God's Word Pastor Reeder

III. Advent in Biblical Perspective
From No News to Good News
"The Angelic Ministry of Christmas – Joseph"
Matthew 1:18–25

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE
The LORD bless you and keep you... Numbers 6:24

Ministry in Music *"Joseph's Song"*
Korey Cox, Soloist

Pastoral Benediction*

Postlude

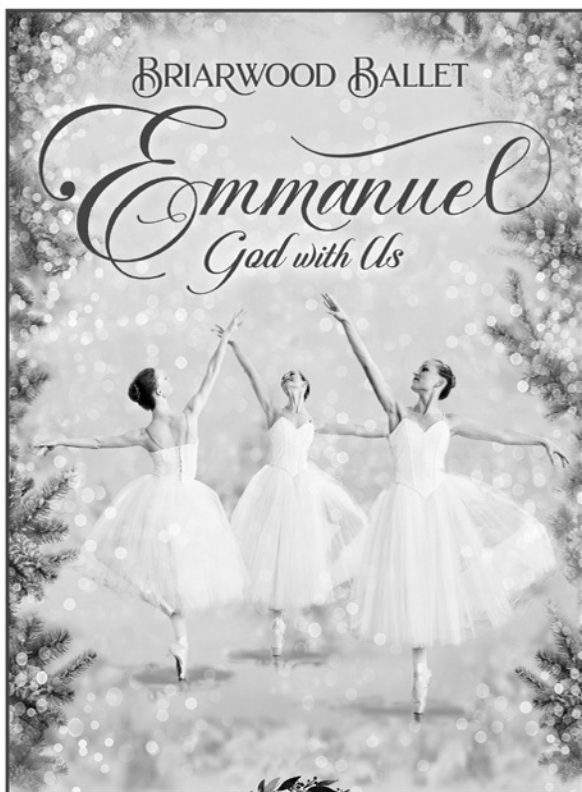
*The congregation is requested to stand, if able.
†K4–3rd grade dismiss to the Children's Auditorium for Children's Worship.

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.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11- 6:00 PM
BRIARWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Emmanuel, God With Us”

Join The Briarwood Ballet as they lead us in worship this Advent season.

This event will not be live-streamed. Make nursery reservations at briarwood.org/nursery.

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

Congregational Meetings — The Session has called Congregational Meetings for today 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 today to receive the 2023 budget.

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.

Communion — The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Saturday, December 24 in the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

Securities 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.

Year-End Giving — The Accounting Office will close for the year on December 30 at 5:00 p.m. Contributions received in the mail must be postmarked or cancelled by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2022. Contributions with January 2023 postmarks will be considered 2023 contributions.

Holiday Gate Schedule — The gates at the church will close at 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 22. The gates will re-open on Christmas Eve at 3:00 p.m., and close following the 11:00 p.m. candlelight service. On Christmas day, gates will open at 7:00 a.m. for the 10:30 a.m. service and close back at noon. The church will remain closed until Tuesday, December 27 at 5:30 a.m.

BTS Political Theology Class – January 5–7, 2023. Birmingham Theological Seminary is offering Briarwood members a condensed course on Political Theology. This course is a survey of exegetical and historical approaches to political theology. The cost is \$80 to audit (attend) or \$200 for class credit. To register email emily@bts.education.

EMPLOYMENT & JOB OPENINGS

Grounds Manager — Full-time position requiring a working knowledge of lawn maintenance, equipment, plants, and irrigation; physical activity and attention to detail. Management experience needed. Salary with benefits. Contact Steve Goebel at 205-776-5230, or sgoebel@briarwood.org.

CMMA Field Staff/Male Disciple-maker — This position will assist the Executive Director in building disciples in the medical community and assist in weekly and annual activities. A major part of this job will be disciplining male students one-on-one and in small groups. If interested, contact Bobby Parks, bjpark@briarwood.org or 205-612-9969.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

“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 one of our two Family Candlelight Services at 5:00 and 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.

The Lampstand Conference — Church Revitalization | January 12–15
How do you effectively pursue Church Health in these tumultuous times? Lampstand equips you with foundational biblical strategies to grow a vital, disciple-making Church of Jesus Christ. Plan on attending The Lampstand Conference this January 12–15, 2023, for a conference on Church Revitalization hosted here at Briarwood. Find additional information and register at briarwood.org/lampstand.

See Briarwood’s full Advent Schedule at briarwood.org/advent.
Make nursery reservations for Advent events at briarwood.org/nursery.

PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Praise the Lord! *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.* Psalm 19:1

Local Prayer — Ask our Heavenly Father to call many to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior this Christmas.

Missions Prayer — Pray for the men and women in our adult English classes, from at least 18 countries, to opened their hearts to Jesus as we celebrate His birth. May the different outreach events and the people at Briarwood be wonderful tools for the gospel. (The flag of Birmingham is featured in today’s worship service.)

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

Our love and sympathy to — Tina Vincent and family on the death of her sister, Lisa Ferris, on December 3; and to Norman Holmes and family on the death of his sister, Jan Holly, on December 4.

email: info@briarwood.org — website: briarwood.org
2200 Briarwood Way — Birmingham, Alabama 35243 — 205-776-5200