



# BRING THEM TO JESUS

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ADVENT AT BRIARWOOD



# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 18, 2022

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## 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 103:20

All: Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word,  
obeying the voice of His word!

## Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

*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.*

## Choral Introit

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Briarwood Men's Ensemble

## Invocation

## Lighting of the Advent Candle and Reading

Jonathan and Meredith Peters (8:00)

Brandon and Meredith Darroch (10:55)

## Greeting of Grace and Peace\*

## Carol of Ascents\*

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” Carol 133

## The Confession of Truth\*

Hebrews 1:1–6

Leader: *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,*

All: But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.

Leader: *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

All: For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”?

Leader: *Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?*

All: And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship Him.”

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

*...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6*

**Ministry Opportunities for Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer of Intercession**

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

*Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth. Isaiah 12:5*

**Presentation and Consecration of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

**Season of Worship Through a Carol of Christmas**

*"Good Christian Men, Rejoice" Carol 151  
"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" Trinity Hymnal  
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Carol 143*

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12*

**Prayer of Illumination\***

**New Testament Reading\*†**

**Exposition of God's Word**

Pastor Reeder

IV. Advent in Biblical Perspective

*From No News to Good News*

*"The Angelic Ministry of Christmas – Shepherds"*

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13*

**Ministry in Music**

*"Noel"*

Hannah Brennan, Soloist

**Pastoral Benediction\***

**Postlude**

*"Sing We Now of Christmas"*

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\*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](http://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.

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*The King Is Coming*  
**HALLELUJAH**

A BRIARWOOD CHRISTMAS  
IN LIVING PORTRAITS

*featuring the Sanctuary and Youth Choirs,  
Orchestra, Ballet and Dramatists*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18  
6:00 PM  
WORSHIP CENTER

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## 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

**Elders and Deacons Elected** — In accordance with the Book of Church Order the following men were elected by members of Briarwood Presbyterian Church on December 11, 2022 for the offices of elder and deacon. **Elders Class of 2025:** John Bentley, Hucks Buchanan, Wes Cline, Matt Denard, John Donaldson, Bruce Evans, Jim Gewin, Craig Gilbert, John Goolsby, Mark Hess, Josh Jones, Mike Lanier, Keith Miller, David Moore, John Phillips, Chuck Powell, Lance Radbill, Mike Sanders, Ed Stakes, Terry Steelman, Mark Thompson, Tim Townes, Bryan Word, Will Worrell, Frank Wright  
**Deacons Class of 2025:** Paul Bentley, Brett Butler, David Cahoon, Tom Cartledge, Matt Davis, Randy DeRieux, Jonathan Drescher, French Forbes, Erik Futral, Lance Garrison, David Graham, Terry Grill, Matt Heard, Fred Holladay, Tommy Lyles, David Marshall, Daniel McClurkin, Andrew McGehee, Jason McMillian, Ed Monroe, Mason Murphy, Brad Nichols, Jonathan Sanders, Dave Schultz, Hans Sitarz, Eric Stephens, Mark Turner, Drew Vaughan, Jon Vermeer, Ethan Vice

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

**PCA Christmas Offering** — Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews on Christmas Eve. 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. More information at [briarwood.org/pcaoffering](http://briarwood.org/pcaoffering).

**Church and School Offices Closed** — Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 for Christmas; then again Monday, January 2 for the New Year holiday.

**Holiday Church Gate Schedule** — The gates will close at 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 22. They will re-open 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 at noon 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](mailto:emily@bts.education).

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## EMPLOYMENT & JOB OPENINGS

**Grounds Manager** — Full-time position requiring knowledge of lawn maintenance, 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](mailto:sgoebel@briarwood.org).

See all employment and job openings at [briarwood.org/employment](http://briarwood.org/employment).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **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. Elements are gluten-free.

## **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.

## **Evangelism Training Dinner — Briarwood Evangelism | January 4**

Join us for a free Informational Dinner on January 4 with Pastor Reeder to learn about our exciting fall evangelism training and how you can share God's gift of love. For dinner reservations and details, go to [briarwood.org/evangelism](http://briarwood.org/evangelism) or contact Leigh Ann Reese at 205-776-5301 or [lreese@briarwood.org](mailto:lreese@briarwood.org).

## **Midweek at Briarwood — Church Wide | January 11–April 26**

Wednesday night dinners, classes and activities for the entire family. Join us for dinner in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday evening from 5:15–6:30 p.m. Classes and activities start at 6:30 p.m. Find a list of classes and opportunities at [briarwood.org/midweek](http://briarwood.org/midweek).

## **The Lampstand Conference — Church Revitalization | January 12–15**

How do you effectively pursue Church Health in these tumultuous times? Plan on attending this Church Revitalization conference January 12–15, 2023 at Briarwood. Find information and register for The Lampstand Conference at [briarwood.org/lampstand](http://briarwood.org/lampstand).

Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.  
Make nursery reservations for events at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).

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# PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

**Missions Prayer** — David and Kristy Richards are with Campus Outreach in Dunedin. As the Regional Director, pray for David as he leads his team to reach university students with evangelism and discipleship. Pray also as he mobilizes these students beyond the university to labor for the Lord wherever He sends them. (The flag of New Zealand is featured in today's worship service.)

**Members Hospitalized** — Bob Hand, John Hedlund, Diana Faulkner, Austin Johnson, Hal Clark

**We Rejoice With** — Bobby and Meredith Hulsey on the birth of their twin daughters, Elisabeth 'Ella' Anne and Abigail Ellis, on December 6; and with Taylor and Lizzy Barnes on the birth of their son, Burrus Lee, on December 12.

email: [info@briarwood.org](mailto:info@briarwood.org) — website: [briarwood.org](http://briarwood.org)  
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