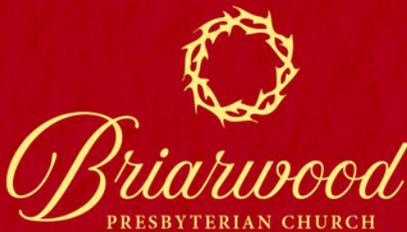




BRING THEM TO JESUS

ADVENT AT BRIARWOOD



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday of Advent – December 25, 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 have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation... Psalm 40:9

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.

Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

Bonnie Furuto, Violin

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.

Choral Introit

Laura Looper, Soloist

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle and Reading

The Reeder Family

Greeting of Grace and Peace*

Carol of Ascents*

"Joy to the World" Carol 125

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 worshiped 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.

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

The Offertory

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Briarwood Bell Choir & Shane Davis, Director

Season of Worship Through a Carol of Christmas

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" Carol 128
"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" Carol 133 • *"Away in a Manger"* Carol 158

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 2:22–40

Exposition of God's Word

V. Advent in Biblical Perspective
From No News to Good News
"Come and Behold Him"
Luke 2:22–40

Pastor Reeder

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE
And now I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace... Acts 20:32a

Ministry in Music

"Simeon's Song"
Ken Elmer, Soloist

Pastoral Benediction*

Postlude

*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

No Christmas Evening Service Tonight



BRING THEM
TO JESUS

Merry Christmas
from the Briarwood Staff

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

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.

Church and School Holiday Schedule — Offices will be closed Monday, December 26 for Christmas; then again Monday, January 2 for the New Year's holiday. The gates will close today at noon and open on Tuesday, December 27 at 5:30 a.m.

Ladies' Exercise Classes — Start back January 4 in M111: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 8:30–9:30 a.m. for all ages and Monday/Friday, 9:30–10:30 a.m. for those needing chair assistance. First class is free. Go to questrecreation.org/fitness-classes.html for information.

Communion — The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, January 8 in the morning services. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

International Friendship Partner — Submit your application to take part in this opportunity to welcome international students and families. If you are interested, email Caroline at cbrown@briarwood.org. Orientation is January 5; make-up session available.

Foster Parenting — Foster Parenting Class begins on January 12. If you are interested, contact Lori McCullough at 205-669-3016 or Irene Hayes at 205-612-1016.

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.

Women's Winter/Spring Studies — Pick from nine studies on a variety of topics Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Find details and register at briarwood.org/women.

Men's Winter/Spring Studies — Men, join us Mondays at 6:30 a.m., Tuesdays at 11:45 a.m. and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. for learning and fellowship. Topics include a study of Galatians, "Full Contact Discipleship" and *The Doctrine of Repentance* by Thomas Watson. No registration required. See details at briarwood.org/men.

EMPLOYMENT & JOB OPENINGS

Children's and Graduate & Career's Administration Assistant — Part time position for a Briarwood member requiring basic computer skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and Publisher) plus graphic design abilities; organization, and coordinating events for the two ministries. For additional information go to briarwood.org/employment.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Evangelism Training Dinner — Briarwood Evangelism | January 4

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

Men's and Women's Studies — January 9–April 28

Men of the Covenant and Women's studies begin the week of January 9. There are morning and evening classes available for both men and women this quarter. View men's classes at briarwood.org/men and women's studies at briarwood.org/women.

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

Join us for dinner in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday evening from 5:15–6:30 p.m. Classes and activities for the entire family start at 6:30 p.m. Find a list of classes and opportunities at 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.

Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.
Make nursery reservations for events at briarwood.org/nursery.

PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Praise the Lord! *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.* Matthew 1:23

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

Missions Prayer — Pray for Shane and Vickie O'Hara as they serve with Team 5:18, a prison ministry in Louisiana. Holidays are difficult for incarcerated men and women and for the families they are separated from. Pray as Shane and his team seek to brighten this time for prisoners and family and make certain they hear about the gift of Jesus. (The flag of Louisiana is featured in today's worship service.)

Members Hospitalized — Terry Chase, Hal Clark, Jim Dewberry, Jeff Dunn, Bob Hand, Austin Johnson, Jennie Stone

Our love and sympathy to — Ken Blackmon, Mary Jo Buckley and family on the death of their wife and mother, member Melinda Blackmon, on December 19.

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