



FOR GOD'S GLORY,
WE ARE COMMITTED TO EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS TO
WORSHIP GOD AND TO REACH BIRMINGHAM TO
REACH THE WORLD FOR CHRIST.



Briarwood
Presbyterian Church, PCA

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Morning Services of Divine Worship – Sunday, April 16, 2023

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 134:1, 2

All: Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD!

Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Hunter Goff

Lord God Almighty, You have made known to me that my salvation is Christ's work, but to cleave to Him by faith is my work, and with this faith is the necessity of my daily repentance as a mourning for the sin which Christ by grace has removed. Continue, O God, to teach me that faith apprehends Christ's righteousness not only for the satisfaction of justice, but as unspotted evidence of Your love to me. Help me to make use of His work of salvation as the ground of peace, and of Your favor to, and acceptance of me the sinner, so that I may live always near the cross. –adapted from The Valley of Vision

Invocation

Gospel Word of Salvation

Greeting of Grace and Peace*

Hymn of Ascents*

“O Church, Arise (Arise, Shine)”

The Confession of Truth*

Old Scots' Confession

Leader: *Christians, what do you confess?*

All: We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to Whom alone we must cleave, Whom alone we must serve, Whom only we must worship, and in Whom only we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; One in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. By Whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by His inscrutable Providence for such ends as His eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of His own glory. Amen.

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

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

"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"

Singing of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

*"Christ Is Mine Forevermore"
"Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"*

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God... Ephesians 6:17

Prayer of Illumination*

New Testament Reading*†

Luke 13:1-9

Exposition of God's Word

Mark Cushman

"The Barren Fig Tree"

Luke 13:1-9

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

Pastoral Benediction*

Congregational Response*

"The Doxology with Alleluias"

Postlude

"Glorious Is Thy Name"

*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 Daniel Cason

Welcome Olan Stubbs

Call to Worship Psalm 135:3

All: Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to His name, for it is pleasant!

Prayer of Invocation

Songs of Praise* *“Lift High the Name of Jesus”*
“How Great (Psalm 145)”
“Worthy, Worthy”
Shane Davis, Worship Leader

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

Offertory Daniel Cason

Scripture and Sermon Stephen King

“Praying with Endurance”
Luke 18:1-8

Benediction*

Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

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

BYG and College Graduating Seniors — Information is needed by Monday, April 17 to effectively minister and recognize you! Seniors, it is critically important that you take a moment to visit the website and fill out the information form. High school seniors go to briarwood.org/seniors. College seniors go to briarwood.org/college-ministry.

Adoption Connection Meeting — Wednesday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Brides Room. This group for adoption/foster families or others who want to support them, exists to ask, share and support. Contact Carter Ralph at w.carter.ralph@gmail.com.

Food Drive — Sunday, April 30. Begin gathering your canned goods and non-perishables for Daniel Cason Ministries. That Sunday, you will leave your donations behind your vehicle for the Mercy Ministry Team to pick up while you are in church.

Become a Briarwood Member — Our Pastor's Inquirers' Class for newcomers and prospective members begins May 3. It includes one Wednesday night class (May 3), one Saturday morning class (May 8), one Sunday morning class (May 9) and a luncheon on May 21 for those who are joining. By attending, you are not obligated to join. For more information or to sign up for the class, email wlong@briarwood.org.

Volunteer for Nursery VBS — June 5–9. We need you to grab a friend and sign up to work VBS in the Nursery! We need storytellers, craft people and shepherds. Spend a week getting to bond with your child at VBS! If you are interested in volunteering, email Alison Craig at acraig@briarwood.org.

CMMA Mission Trip Needs — Christian Medical Ministry is collecting donations of ibuprofen (adult, children and infant) and acetaminophen for its mission trips to the Dominican Republic this spring. Contact CMMA with questions at 205-776-5470.

Trailblazers to Aldridge Gardens — Monday April 17 at 10:30 a.m. Meet us at the entrance to tour the gardens and then we will head to lunch at Costas. Sign up at briarwood.org/trailblazers or email sjohnston@briarwood.org.

Worship Center Flowers — The flowers in the Worship Center Lobby are given to the glory of God from the wedding of Virginia Grace Reese and John Dixon Leuenberger on April 14.

EMPLOYMENT & JOB OPENINGS

Director of Counseling Ministry — The Director needs to be an experienced counselor, have experience managing people and operation leadership, and have a commitment to counsel and train others in Biblical Counseling. He will either be ordained or ordainable in the PCA. Send resume to Patti Claud at pclaud@briarwood.org or call at 205-776-5282.

Administrative Assistants & Part-time Staff — There are a number of full and part-time ministry positions open: 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

Project Andrew Training — Briarwood Evangelism | April 19 & 26 *

Join us this April for evangelism training sessions in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30–7:30 p.m. This training will be focused on “Bringing Them to Him” as a part of this year’s theme of Project Andrew and personal evangelism. Register for dinner and nursery at briarwood.org/midweek.

Working Women’s Fellowship Dinner — Women’s Ministry | April 20

Join us Thursday, April 20 in Fellowship Hall E&F at 6:00 p.m. for dinner, fellowship and encouragement. Cost is \$7 at the door. Register at briarwood.org/women.

Handel’s Messiah — Briarwood Music Concert | May 7 *

Handel’s Messiah will be presented by over 120 musicians from the Briarwood Sanctuary Choir, soloists, ensemble, and full orchestra on Sunday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. This worship concert is free of charge and will last approximately 90 minutes.

Vacation Bible School 2023 — Children’s Ministry | June 5–9 *

Registration is now open! VBS will be June 5–9 from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. each day. VBS is free and open to Briarwood members and visitors. T-shirts will be available the week of VBS for \$10. Email Raleigh Macoy at rmacoy@briarwood.org if you are interested in volunteering. Register your child for VBS at briarwood.org/vbs.

* Nursery is available upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Local and Missions Prayer — Praise the Lord for the 46 people who prayed to receive Christ out of the 222 who heard the Gospel during the evangelism class this semester. Pray about joining the new Wednesday night class which started this week. Pray for the international students in Birmingham who are reading the Bible one-on-one with Briarwood members each week. Many of them have never heard the Gospel. As they read His Word, pray that Jesus would be revealed to them, and that they would have faith to believe. (The flag of Birmingham is featured in today’s worship service.)

Hospitalized — Jim Bragan, Bill Feist, John Salmon, Sheridan Shirley, Anne Stowe, Elaine Willis, Joy Moore

Our love and sympathy — to Anna, Grant and Matthew Hester and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Beverly Hood, on April 8; to Joe, Bennett, Abigail and Miriam Kelly and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Aubrey Kelly, on April 9; to Banks Farris and family on the death of his wife, member Evelyn Farris, on April 9; to Judy and Jeff Flannery Jr. and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Barbara Early, on April 10; and to the family of member Miriam Cox on her death on April 10.

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