



**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

Ascension Sunday – Sunday, May 21, 2023

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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

*And all who believed were together and had all things in common. Acts 2:44*

## Call to Worship and Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 47:5–8

Leader: *God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet*

All: Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.

## Prelude and Time of Meditation and Confession

*“Jesus Saves”*

Briarwood Orchestra

*Eternal God, in Whom we live and move and have our being, Whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and Whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to You, confessing our faults, confiding in Your grace, and finding in You our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ Your Son. – from The Book of Common Worship*

## Invocation

## Gospel Word of Salvation

## Hymn of Ascents\*

*“Crown Him with Many Crowns”* Hymn 234

## The Confession of Truth\*

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 18.1–2

Leader: *Hypocrites and other unregenerate men may deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions about their being in God's favor and about their being saved.*

All: However, those who truly believe in the Lord Jesus, who honestly love Him and try to walk in good conscience before Him, may in this life be assured with certainty that they are in a state of grace.

Leader: *This certainty is not based on the fallible hope of guesswork or probabilities. Rather, it is the infallible assurance of faith, established on the divine truth of the promises of salvation.*

All: There is also the inner evidence of spiritual insight, given to us by God, to which these promises are directed. And there is the testimony of the Spirit of adoption, witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God. This Spirit is the pledge of our inheritance. By Him we are sealed until the day of redemption.

THE PETITIONING OF GOD’S PROVIDENCE

*They will call upon My name, and I will answer them. Zechariah 13:9*

**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**

*“Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord?”*

**Singing of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs**

*“Christ Is Mine Forevermore”*

*“O What a Friend”*

Elizabeth Jordan, Soloist

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\*†**

Romans 8:12–17

**Exposition of God’s Word**

Pastor Reeder

LII. Romans in Biblical Perspective

*The Gospel of God*

*“Adoption: Sons of God”*

Romans 8:12–17

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD’S PEOPLE

*For the Love of Christ controls us... II Corinthians 5:14a*

**Song of Response**

*“Blessed Assurance”*  
Daniel Cason, soloist

**Pastoral Benediction\***

**Congregational Affirmation\***

*“Blessed Assurance”*

**Postlude**

*“How Great Thou Art”*

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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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**Choral Introit Recital** (5:15-5:45)

Chamber Ensemble  
Ken and Susan Berg, Directors

**Prelude**

Daniel Cason

**Welcome**

Ike Reeder

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 150

All: Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens! Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with flute and harp! Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe! Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Songs of Praise\***

Daniel Cason, Worship Leader

**Announcements**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Offertory**

Daniel Cason

**Scripture and Sermon**

Pastor Reeder

XVI. Zechariah in Biblical Perspective  
*The Gospel According to Zechariah*  
“The Lord Is My Shepherd”  
Zechariah 11

**Benediction\***

**Doxology\***

**Postlude**

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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

**Tithe Envelopes** — The church Accounting office is changing envelope providers. If you have never received envelopes and would like to, or if you have been receiving them and wish to continue, please complete the form at [briarwood.org/tithe-envelopes](http://briarwood.org/tithe-envelopes). If you do not sign up, you will no longer receive envelopes in the mail.

**Officer Nomination Month** — Deacon and Elder nominations for the Class of 2026 will be accepted from the congregation during the month of May. Forms are available at the church information stations or online at [briarwood.org/nominations](http://briarwood.org/nominations). The deadline for nominations is May 31.

**Dedicate a Flag** — Dedicate a U.S. flag in memory or honor of someone this Independence Day. Each \$15 donation will provide a flag on campus and the name of the dedicated will be listed in our Christianity in America Celebration service bulletin on July 2. All donations must be made by June 18. To donate go to [briarwood.org/flag](http://briarwood.org/flag).

**Trailblazers Coffee** — Tuesday, May 23 at 9:00 a.m. in G101. Come hear a presentation about managing Medicare. Sign up at [briarwood.org/trailblazers](http://briarwood.org/trailblazers).

**Church and School Offices Closed** — Monday, May 29 for the Memorial Day holiday.

**BTS Summer Semester** — Take a seminary class this summer! Classes begin May 30. For the upcoming class schedule, go to [bts.education](http://bts.education).

**10-Minute Choir** — Come sing in the choir without weekly practices or commitments starting June 4. Meet in the choir loft 10 minutes before each service and return to your seat after the opening hymn. All are welcome; no experience needed!

**VBS Volunteers Needed** — June 5–9. Additional shepherds and teen helpers are needed. If interested, email [rmacoy@briarwood.org](mailto:rmacoy@briarwood.org) or go to [briarwood.org/vbs](http://briarwood.org/vbs).

**Women's Summer Fellowships** — Select dates and times in June and July. Women will gather in a host home in groups of 10 for food, fellowship, and to hear from a "Mystery Guest." For additional info or to sign up, go to [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).

**Worship Center Flowers** — The flowers in the Worship Center are given to the glory of God in honor of the Birmingham Theological Seminary graduates. The flowers in the Worship Center Lobby are given to the glory of God in memory of Sheridan Shirley from his celebration service on May 19.

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## EMPLOYMENT & JOB OPENINGS

**YBL Small Group Coordinator** — Work with (YBL) Director in discipleship initiatives among the 20-30-year-old demographic. Skills needed would be strong interpersonal skills, the ability to connect with new people, organize and facilitate small groups, and willingness to raise financial support. Contact Rob Genin at [rgenin@briarwood.org](mailto:rgenin@briarwood.org).

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



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

VBS will be June 5–9 from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day. VBS is free and open to both members and visitors. T-shirts will be available for \$10. Register at [briarwood.org/vbs](http://briarwood.org/vbs). Volunteers are still needed. Please email [rmacoy@briarwood.org](mailto:rmacoy@briarwood.org) if interested.

## **Super Summer 2023 — Children's Ministry | June 12–August 3**

Children age K5 through 6th grade are invited to attend Super Summer at Briarwood. Each weekday, select age groups will meet in the gym and then go out to a fun activity. Activities include Let's Play, Defy, McWane Center, Splash Adventure, and more! For details, download the Super Summer brochure at [briarwood.org/supersummer](http://briarwood.org/supersummer).

## **Summer Counseling Conference — Counseling Ministry | June 23–24**

Receive biblical counselor training to lead others to be “More than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Keynote speakers will include Dr. Kevin Hurt and Pastor Reeder. Find additional information or register at [briarwood.org/counseling](http://briarwood.org/counseling).

## **Christianity in America 2023 — The Hoppers in Concert | July 2 \***

Come and celebrate America while honoring our veterans! Multi-award-winning family group, The Hoppers, will perform Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. This concert will be free of charge and open to all. Following the evening service, join us for a time of fellowship on the church lawn.

\* Nursery is available upon reservation at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).  
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

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## PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Praise the Lord! *Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, His love endures forever.*  
Psalm 118:1

**Local and Missions Prayer** — Pray for God's protection over our young people and draw them to Himself early in their lives. Pray for their strength to be in Jesus and not of the things in this earth so they may overcome the enemy at all times. Pray for college students participating in Summer Beach Project at Panama City Beach with Campus Outreach this summer. Pray as they deepen their faith they will learn how to pray and study God's Word so they may share their faith more effectively on their campuses in the fall. (The flag of Florida is featured in today's worship service.)

**Hospitalized** — Margery Birdsong, Suzanne McCampbell, Anne Stowe, George Harrick, Rosemary Jager

**Our Love and Sympathy** — to Bruce Dorough, Robin Defnall and family on the death of their brother, Steve Dorough, on May 7; and to Andy, Abigail and Esther Cheely and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, member Kathy Cheely, on May 13.

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