



# *Briarwood*

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*For God's glory, we are committed  
to equipping Christians to worship God  
and to reach Birmingham  
to reach the world  
for Christ.*

BRIARWOOD.ORG

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Morning Services of Divine Worship – Sunday, November 12, 2023

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## Worship Leaders

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 & Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 103:13

All: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.

## Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

*"Fanfare and Processional on God of Our Fathers"*

Briarwood Orchestra

*Life-giving God, quicken me to call upon Your Name, for my mind is ignorant, my thoughts vagrant, my affections earthly, my heart unbelieving and only Your Spirit can help my infirmities. I approach You as Father and Friend, my portion forever, my exceeding joy, my strength of heart. I believe in You as the God of nature, the ordainer of providence, the sender of Jesus my Savior. My guilty fears discourage an approach to You, but I praise You for the blessed news that Jesus reconciles me to You. adapted from The Valley of Vision.*

## Invocation

## Gospel Word of Salvation

## Sacrament of Baptism

## Greeting of Grace & Peace\*

## Hymn of Ascents\*

*"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"* Hymn 59

## The Confession of Truth\*

Philippians 4:6-7

All: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God!

## THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

*Call to Me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. Jeremiah 33:3*

### Ministry Opportunities for Prayer

#### Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

## THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

*Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD! Psalm 150:6*

### Presentation & Consecration of God's Tithe & Our Offerings

#### Musical Offering of Worship

*"Psalm 24: The Earth Is the Lord's"*  
Briarwood Choir, Praise Team, and Orchestra

#### Psalms, Hymns, & Spiritual Songs

*"O Church, Arise"*

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*...for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Acts 20:27*

#### Prayer of Illumination\*

#### New Testament Reading\*†

Matthew 6:25–35

#### Exposition of God's Word

Rob Looper

*"The Cure for Anxiety and Stress"*  
Matthew 6:25–35

## THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*The LORD bless you and keep you... Numbers 6:24*

#### Pastoral Benediction\*

#### Congregational Affirmation\*

*"The Doxology with Alleluias"*

#### Postlude

*"My Country 'Tis of Thee"*

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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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## Prelude

*“Come, Thou Lord, Creator Spirit”*

Chamber Ensemble  
Ken Berg, Conductor

## Welcome

Ike Reeder

## Call to Worship

Psalms 103:22

All: Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

## Prayer of Invocation

## Songs of Praise\*

*“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”* Hymn 6  
*“My Savior’s Love”* Hymn 512  
Ken Berg, Hymn Leader

## Announcements

## Offertory Prayer

## Offertory

*“What A Friend”*  
Chamber Ensemble

## Scripture & Sermon

VI. Philippians  
*Rejoicing in the Advancement of the Gospel*  
“Forward Not Backward, Up Not Down”  
Philippians 3:12–21

Joel Richards

## Benediction\*

## Doxology\*

John Haines

## Postlude

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## WELCOME TO BRIARWOOD

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. We 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.

– The Briarwood Church Family

## FEATURED EVENTS

### **Service of Thanksgiving — Evening Worship Service | November 19 \***

Come Sunday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. for a service of praise and thanksgiving. Members of the congregation will have an opportunity to reflect on their thankfulness to the Lord at the conclusion of the worship service.

### **“I Cared Enough” Thanksgiving Meal — Music Ministry | November 21**

This year’s Thanksgiving Meal and Gospel Festival for Birmingham’s poor and needy will be on Tuesday, November 21 at the Bill Harris Arena. We need to feed 10,000 people! To get involved, go to [icaredenough.com](http://icaredenough.com) or email [jhaines@briarwood.org](mailto:jhaines@briarwood.org).

### **Walk Through Nativity — Church Wide Event | December 6, 7 and 8**

December 6, 7 and 8 from 6:45–8:45 p.m. Over 750 volunteer actors, costumers, parking attendants, scene-builders, and greeters are needed for this year’s Walk Through! Sign up online at [briarwood.org/nativity](http://briarwood.org/nativity) or call 205-776-5282.

### **“Hallelujah! The Light Has Come” — Briarwood Christmas Festival | December 17 \***

Come experience Advent through a dramatic presentation from the Briarwood Choirs, Orchestra and Dramatists with special guest Sandra McCracken. This event is free and open to the public.

\* 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

**Briarwood and Missions Prayer Focus** — Pray for those still considering what to give to the Lord for the work of His Church. Pray for Debi DeBoer and her team at First Priority of Alabama to have wisdom as they expand into new territory and bring others on board in their ministry. Pray the Lord will provide for their needs during this time of growth. (The flag of Alabama is featured in today’s worship service.)

**Hospitalized** — Bill Beacham, Allison Brown, Richard Gallo, Carolyn Campbell, Gene Head, Jr., Julie Childs, Charles Gipson, Janice Hamil

**We rejoice** — with Wells and Caroline Holladay on the birth of their son, Fred Wells V, on November 2 and with grandparents Fred and Tracy Holladay.

**Our love and sympathy** – to Ron Wagar and family on the death of his brother, Bob Wagar, on October 25; to the family of member Paul Gaston White on his death on November 1; to Loring and Abby Muir, Amanda Liddell and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Bill Muir, on November 2; to the family of member Ann Leopard on her death on November 2; to Billy, William and Brandon Ball and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Laura Mae Ball, on November 5; and to Connie Evans and family on the death of her father, Linus Cortez, on November 6.

email: [info@briarwood.org](mailto:info@briarwood.org) — website: [briarwood.org](http://briarwood.org)  
2200 Briarwood Way — Birmingham, Alabama 35243 — 205-776-5200



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Veterans Day** — Let us remember and give thanks for the men and women who have served our country and sacrificed so much so that we can live free.

**Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes** — Next Sunday morning is the last time to turn in boxes. You can leave packed boxes in the Children's Auditorium Hallway or build a box online (\$25) by going to [briarwood.org/occ](http://briarwood.org/occ).

**Angel Tree** — Available today in the church lobbies. This year's gifts will benefit children in need from the Birmingham area. Gifts are due back at Briarwood by next Sunday, November 19. Email Kari at [kescue@briarwood.org](mailto:kescue@briarwood.org) with any questions.

**Persecuted Church Prayer** — Today at 5:00 p.m. in G103. Come join the prayer team to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. All are invited.

**Communion Service** — Sunday, November 19. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the morning services. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

**Briarwood Holiday Closing** — Church and School Offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on November 23 and 24.

**Christmas Poinsettias** — On sale until December 3. Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone this Advent season. Dedications are \$20 each, available for purchase in the Membership Office or online at [briarwood.org/poinsettia](http://briarwood.org/poinsettia).

**Officer Selection Sunday** — December 3. Members will be asked to select officers during a called meeting of the congregation that begins at 8:00 a.m. and officially closes with the benediction of the 10:55 a.m. service. The men receiving the most votes will then be placed on a final slate that will be presented for election the following Sunday.

**"A Joyful Noel"** — Come Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center to hear the Children's Choirs of Briarwood as they bless us and begin our Christmas season!

**"O Come Let Us Adore Him"** — December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Join the Briarwood Ballet as they lead us in worship this Advent season. More details online at [briarwood.org/ballet](http://briarwood.org/ballet).

**Our Season of Prayer Meetings** — Sundays at 5:15 p.m. in A-105. Our Church Family gathers weekly to pray together as we seek the Lord to lead us during this intermediate phase. Email [pclaud@briarwood.org](mailto:pclaud@briarwood.org) with any questions.

**Welcome these new members** — Lydia Austin, Bryant Ballenger, Kevin and Karen Caton, Carol Davis, Shannon Fitzpatrick, K.C. Gables, Sarah Howe, Joseph Hyche, Bill and Alice Krug, Faith Migwi, John David Royal, Taylor and Bethany Stearns, Amy Stephens.

**Worship Flowers** — The flowers in the Worship Center are given to the glory of God in memory of Ethel Hoff who served over 40 years as a missionary to Asia with Overseas Missionary Fellowship. The flowers in the Worship Center Lobby are in honor of the men and women who have served our country through service in the military.