HOPE

THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

First Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 3, 2023

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 98:4

All: Make a joyful noise to the LORD all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

"The Infant Jesus" Laurie Borland, flute

Almighty God, grant us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and 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.

Solo Introit "Gently"

Hannah Brennan and Elizabeth Jordan, soloists

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

Joel & Eszti Richards (8:00)

Landon & Rebekah McKee (10:55)

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Carol of Ascents* "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Carol 124

The Confession of Truth*

Isaiah 7:14

All: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall

conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

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

"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" Revelation 5:13b

Presentation & Consecration of God's Tithe & Our Offerings

Musical Offering of Worship

"The Infant King" Sanctuary Choir

Season of Worship through Carols of Christmas

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" Carol 128 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Carol 123 (vv. 1, 4)

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*†

I Timothy 1:15 & Luke 19:1-10

Exposition of God's Word

Dr. Dan Doriani

"Jesus Came for Us, to Seek the Lost" I Timothy 1:15 & Luke 19:1–10

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. II Corinthians 13:14

Pastoral Benediction*

Congregational Affirmation*

"The Doxology"

Postlude

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

*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.

Texts used with permission granted through CCLI License agreement 124545.

Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version.

FELLOWSHIP OF WORSHIP

Children's Christmas Choirs - "A Joyful Noel" - 6:00 p.m.

Welcome John Haines

"Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Pre-school Christmas Choir

"The Shepherd Shuffle"

"1-2-3, Kings Are We"

"O Come, Let Us Adore Him"

"Do You Know Why?"

"Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus"

Luke 2–7:17

Julia Shirley, Pre-school Choir Coordinator

"A Joyful Noel" Children's Christmas Choir

Caroling Song"

"Sing We All Noel!"

"What Can We Bring?"

"Christmas Songs of Joy"

"Savior Child"

"Children, Go Where I Send Thee"

Shanna Philips, Children's Choir Director

Presentation of Diaconate Gifts to Children

Jake Stallings

Postlude

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

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

December 6, 7 and 8 from 6:45–8:45 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors to experience the story of the birth and life of our Lord Jesus in 13 biblical scenes with narrated drama using actors and live animals. Stop by the Fellowship Hall on your way out for cookies and fellowship. Admission is free. See details at briarwood.org/nativity.

"O Come Let Us Adore Him" — Briarwood Ballet \mid December 10 *

Join the Briarwood Ballet on December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center as they lead us in worship this Advent season. Go to briarwood.org/ballet.

"Hallelujah! The Light Has Come" — Briarwood Christmas Festival | December 17 * Come experience Advent through a musical and dramatic presentation from the Briarwood Choirs, Orchestra and Dramatists with special guest Sandra McCracken. This event is completely free and open to the public.

Christmas Eve Services — Worship Services | December 24 *

Reflect on the birth of Jesus with us this Christmas Eve. Sunday morning we will have one combined Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. with no Sunday School Communities meeting. Bring your family and friends back Sunday evening for Candlelight Family Services at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. or our Candlelight Communion Service at 11:00 p.m.

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

PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Briarwood and Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for those attending the Walk Through Nativity this week to see the love of Christ in each scene, and for the visitors who do not have Jesus in their hearts to come to know Him as Lord and Savior. Pray for the upcoming Briarwood Lampstand Conference January 18–21. Pray for continuing registrations and for those who attend to be encouraged by the biblical message on church vitality. Also pray for the health and travel of our speakers, Sandy Willson, John Currie, Tom Hawkes and Rob Looper.

Hospitalized — Richard Gallo, Charles Gipson, Sandy Gority, Thad James, Bart Kidd, Laura Kirkpatrick

We rejoice with — Ernie and Caroline Brown on the birth of their son, Judah Lee, on November 29, and with grandparents Leon and Kelly Chadwick.

Our love and sympathy — to Joy Carter and family on the death of her mother, Geneva Aycock, on November 17; to Ouida Gordon and family on the death of her father, Dewey 'DC' Johnson, on November 20; to Frank Mason and family on the death of his wife, member Betty Bostwick Mason, on November 25; to Margaret, Thomas and Jonathan Hess and family on the death of her mother, Mary Josephine Wilborn, on November 26; and to Steve Windham and family on the death of his mother, Mary Lou Windham, on November 28.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Poinsettias — Sale ends today. Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone this Advent season. Dedications are \$20 each. Go to briarwood.org/poinsettia.

Selection Sunday for Officer Election — Today in morning worship services. You have received in the mail the names of all candidates for elder and deacon. Today you will have the opportunity to vote for up to 25 of the 47 elder candidates and up to 42 of the 55 deacon candidates. All members of Briarwood Presbyterian Church in good standing may vote. You must vote during the morning services.

2024 Budget — Today at 5:00 p.m. in A205. Members of the Budget Committee will be available to answer questions regarding the 2024 Budget.

Officer Election — Sunday, December 10. Men receiving the most votes from Officer Selection Sunday will be placed on a final slate that will be presented for the church membership to elect. There will also be a special order at 10:35 a.m. in the Worship Center to receive the 2024 budget.

Canned Food Drive — Sunday, December 10. Begin gathering your canned goods and non-perishables for Oak Mountain Mission. That Sunday, you will leave your donations behind your vehicle for the Mercy Ministry Team to pick up while you are in church.

Trailblazers Christmas Sing-A-Long — Tuesday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m. Meet us at Cahaba Ridge Retirement Community to sing familiar Christmas songs with Hunter Goff. Sign up at briarwood.org/trailblazers or sjohnston@briarwood.org.

Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed — January 18–21. Briarwood is hosting the upcoming Lampstand Conference on church vitality and health. We need volunteers for housing, transportation, and conference materials preparation. If interested, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org or 205-776-5243.

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 with any questions.

Ignite Sunday School Volunteers Needed — Volunteer helpers and teachers are needed for 4th–6th grade boys' Sunday School. This position serves January through May on a month-on, month-off basis. No prep is needed. If interested, email esitarz@briarwood.org.

Job Openings: Briarwood Receptionists — Morning Receptionist (part-time, Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.); and Afternoon Receptionist (part-time, Monday–Friday, 12:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.). Membership required. Send inquiries to kbvice@briarwood.org.

Worship Center Flowers — The flowers in the Worship Center are given to the glory of God in memory of Betty Bostwick Mason from her funeral on November 30.

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