HOPE

THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 10, 2023

Worship Leaders

Dr. Dan Doriani, Interim Pastor Mr. Bruce Stallings, Executive Pastor Dr. John Haines, Worship Pastor

Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist Rev. Daniel Cason, Pianist

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

For where two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I among them. Matthew 18:20

Call to Worship & Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 97:1

All: The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice!

Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

"Christmas Joy and Glory" Briarwood Orchestra

Our glorious Savior and Redeemer, when the angels split open the skies over Bethlehem on that night long ago, their message was that of "Peace on earth!" Yet today, we are prone to wander from the very One who came to fulfill this promise to give us everlasting peace. Remind us anew, Lord, that the message the angels brought that night is one that can only be fulfilled as we yield our lives completely to You. As we prepare to celebrate Your birth, O Lord, may we be given a foretaste of the eternal peace that is yet to come.

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Reading

Greg and Cindy Norfleet (8:00) Saeyoung and Mikyung Park (10:55)

Reception of New Members (10:55)

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Carol of Ascents*

"Joy to the World" Carol 125

The Confession of Truth*

Matthew 1:20-21

Leader: But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to

him in a dream, saying,

All: "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which

is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall

call His name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins."

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God!

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

...I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people... I Timothy 2:1

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 & Consecration of God's Tithe & Our Offerings

Musical Offering of Worship

"Bethlehem Morning" Audrey Jowers, soloist, and Sanctuary Choir

Season of Worship through a Carol of Christmas

"Angels We Have Heard on High" Carol 132 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" Carol 131

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me Your statutes! Psalm 119:12

Prayer of Illumination*

New Testament Reading*†

Matthew 20:17-28

Exposition of God's Word

Dr. Dan Doriani

"Jesus Came to Give His Life as a Ransom for Many" Matthew 20:17–28

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

Pastoral Benediction*

Congregational Affirmation*

"The Doxology"

Postlude

"Manger"

*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

Briarwood Ballet - "O, Come Let Us Adore Him" - 6:00 p.m.



Sunday Evening Worship:

"O, Come Let Us Adore Him" Briarwood Ballet

Join the Briarwood Ballet at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center as they lead us in worship this Advent season.

Throughout the history of mankind there has been offered a most extraordinary invitation: to come into the Presence of our Awesome God. The invitation is extended to all nations and all people and the entrance begins at a Bethlehem manger.

The Heavenly hosts announced His coming, wisemen brought gifts and shepherds came to worship.

Briarwood Ballet invites you to Come, Let Us, Adore Him!

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

"Hallelujah! The Light Has Come" — Briarwood Christmas Festival | December 17 * Come experience Advent through 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.

The Lampstand Birmingham Conference — Church Revitalization | January 18–21 You are invited to attend The Lampstand Conference, a conference on Church Health and Revitalization, hosted here at Briarwood. Details at briarwood.org/lampstand.

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

PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Blessed be the Name of the Lord from this day forth and forevermore! Psalm 113:2

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Be in prayer for all the Christmas outreach events in the next three weeks. Pray those reached will be drawn to a closer relationship with Jesus.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for the UAB international students who will be returning home for winter break and to a darker spiritual climate. Pray that the gospel conversations had at Briarwood will bear fruit to remind them of the Truth while at home, and the light of the Gospel will draw them to the Son. Pray for the relationships between students and ministry partners to endure the winter break, for students safe travels, and for the Gospel to go forth to the nations.

Hospitalized — Denis Devane, Richard Gallo, Charles Gipson, Thad James, Danese Knott-Craig, Lucy Roark, Jim Shackelford, Gay Wright, Bart Kidd, Buddy Runnels, Phillip Powell, Betsy Hayes, Jerry Merrell

We rejoice with — Ryan and Emma Katherine Valentino on the birth of their son, John Thompson, on November 30.

Our love and sympathy — to Larry Holley and family on the death of his sister, Teresa Grammer, on November 30; to Mark, Cody and Hannah Crain and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Jim Crain, on November 30; and and to Dan Roberts and family on the death of his mother-in-law, Charlotte Griggs, on December 6.

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Officer Election — This morning. 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.

Persecuted Church Prayer Time — Tonight at 5:00 p.m. in G103. Come pray with the Persecuted Church Prayer Team for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. All are invited to join us for this special time of prayer.

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

Communion — The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, December 24 in the Candlelight Service at 11:00 p.m. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

Securities Stewardship — 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.

Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed — January 18–21. Briarwood is hosting the upcoming conference where pastors and church leaders from across the country come for teaching, encouragement, and fellowship. We need volunteers for housing, transportation and preparing attendee notebooks and goody bags. If you can help in any of these ways, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org or 205-776-5243.

Trailblazer Travel: Florida — March 11–15. Come travel with friends to Amelia Island, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville. We'll go on guided tours, visit a plantation, and cruise the St. Johns River. Five days and four nights includes breakfast and dinner for \$679. Go to briarwood.org/trailblazers or email sjohnston@briarwood.org.

Operation Christmas Child Thank You — Many thanks to everyone who brought the 876 shoeboxes we collected! The Children's Ministry is so grateful to Martha Jenks and her table volunteers for their hard work and to Trail Life for delivering the boxes!

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. Email esitarz@briarwood.org.

Job Openings: Briarwood Receptionist — 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.). Briarwood membership required. For inquiries and application, email kbvice@briarwood.org.

Job Openings: Full-time & Part-time Staff — There are a number of ministry positions open. See all employment and job openings at briarwood.org/employment.