- A THRILL OF

THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES





ERIAN CHURCH

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 17, 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 ... in the great assembly I will bless the LORD. Psalm 26:12

Call to Worship & Preparation from the Psalms

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

Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

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.

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle & Reading	Michael & Amanda Johnson (8:00) Chad & Kari Escue (10:55)
Solo Introit	<i>"Come Light Our Hearts"</i> Sandra McCracken, Guest Artist

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Carol of Ascents*

The Confession of Truth*

Leader: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called

All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

"Gloria" Hunter Goff, Organist

Psalm 98:4

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Carol 145

Isaiah 9:6-7

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice... Psalm 5:3

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

"What a Wonderful Child" Sandra McCracken, Guest Artist

Season of Worship through Carols of Christmas

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice" Carol 151 "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" Trinity Hymnal "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Carol 143

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*†

Exposition of God's Word

Matthew 1:1-8; 18-25

Dr. Dan Doriani

"The One We Worship" Matthew 1:1-8; 18-25

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE For the Love of Christ controls us... II Corinthians 5:14a

Pastoral Benediction*

Congregational Affirmation*

Postlude

*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.

"The Doxology"

"He Is Born"

FELLOWSHIP OF WORSHIP

"Hallelujah! The Light Has Come" – 6:00 p.m.



Sunday Evening Worship: "Hallelujah! The Light Has Come" Briarwood Christmas Festival

Come experience Advent through the dramatic presentation of "Hallelujah! The Light Has Come." This gift of talents features the Briarwood Choirs, Orchestra and Dramatists with special guest Sandra McCracken. This event is completely free and open to the public.

Sandra McCracken is a GRAMMY nominated singer-songwriter and hymn writer from Nashville, Tennessee. A prolific recording artist, McCracken has produced 15 solo albums. Her best selling release, *Psalms* received critical acclaim followed by *God's Highway*. As a published writer, she contributes a regular column in Christianity Today and released her first book *"Send Out Your Light"* in September of 2021.

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.

FEATURED EVENTS

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.

MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | January 10-April 24 *

Wednesday night dinners, classes and activities for the entire family. Join us for dinner in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays from 5:15–6:30 p.m. Classes and activities start at 6:30 p.m. Find information and register for dinners at briarwood.org/midweek.

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.

Women's In-Town Retreat — Women's Ministry | January 26-27

Ladies, join us for an In-town Retreat hosted here at Briarwood the weekend of January 26–27. This year's theme will be "By Design" and our keynote speaker will be Courtney Denton, Director of Mercy and Women's Ministries at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Registration is \$45 per person and will open on December 20 at briarwood.org/women.

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

PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray that the Christmas Eve services will draw many visitors. Pray for the many people who are hurting this holiday season to be surrounded by the Savior's love as He comforts and may His amazing grace fall upon them.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for the continued work of Ben Cohen with Globe Works International Ministries in sensitive areas. Praise God for his report of increasing numbers of new believers who have repented, believed, and been baptized. Pray the Lord will protect these new believers and help them to grow in their faith.

Hospitalized — Richard Gallo, Charles Gipson, Betsy Hayes, Betty Hull, Bart Kidd, Jerry Merrell, Phillip Powell, Kendall Reaves, Buddy Runnels, Gloria Witt, Denis Devane

Our love and sympathy — the family of member Charlotte Walker on her death on December 7; and to James and Ann Lucas and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, member Beverly Lucas, on December 8.

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Briarwood Bookstore — We will be open Sunday, December 24 from 9:00 a.m.-noon if you still need to find that perfect book or gift to bless someone. The Bookstore will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 and again on Sunday, December 31 and Monday, January 1 for the New Year holiday.

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

Year-End Giving — The Accounting Office will close for the year on Friday, December 29 at 5:00 p.m. Contributions received in the mail must be postmarked or canceled by Saturday, December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2023. Contributions with January 2024 postmarks will be considered 2024 contributions.

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.

PCA Offering — Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews on Christmas Eve. Through the Ministerial Relief Fund, the Christmas Offering provides monthly, supplemental income to our retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows and dependent children who have low income and meet the Relief Fund guidelines. More information at briarwood.org/pcaoffering.

Church and School Offices Closed — Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for Christmas: then again Monday, January 2 for the New Year holiday

Church Gate Holiday Schedule — On Sunday, December 24, the gates will open at 8:00 a.m. and close following the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. The church will be closed till Wednesday, December 27 at 5:30 a.m. and closed again on Monday, January 1.

Elders and Deacons Elected — In accordance to the Book of Church Order the following men were elected by members of Briarwood Presbyterian Church on December 10, 2023:

Elders: (Class of 2026) Jon Adcock, Bill Armistead, Lance Black, Jim Blackmon, Ken Blackmon, Jim Bradford, Billy Buck, Stephen Bunn, Todd Carlisle, Jim Carlson, Leon Chadwick, Jason Crowe, Sam Duffey, Ken Friday, Beau Green, Kevin Gush, Clay Hamblen, Louie Haynes, Gene Head, Don Hendry, Bruce Herrington, Jeff Olin, Kirk Petty, Drew Ricketts, Bob Sproul (Class of 2024) Don Murphy

Deacons: (Class of 2026) Grant Alexander, Brandon Ball, Ken Barton, Gordon Bellamy, Stephen Boyd, Matthew Bush, Joseph Cawood, Paul Cizek, Tim Eller, Matt Frederiksen, John Gomillion, Marland Hayes, Jeff Hester, Nick Hill, Christian Holcomb, John Holcombe, Chris Hyche, Nathan Ivey, Philip Johnson, Marvin Keffer, Clay King, Phillip Landers, John Lattner, Josh Lee, Joseph Martin, Andrew Miller, Matthew Moore, Matt Moton, Frank Price, Duane Pritchett, Chase Roberson, Doug Robertson, David Roebuck, John Royal, Andrew Russell, John Scruggs, Barry Shirley, Paul Silvey, Seth Steelman, Charles Terry, Bill Whitworth, John Wiggins (Class of 2025) Ray Bronner, Roger Dobnikar, Jed Duke, Carson Haley, Gary Hudson, Mike Jefferson, Cale Kreger, Matthew Michel, Brad Reynolds, Mark Rose, David Stearns, Tyler Sullens, George Trummel