



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, January 7, 2024

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

*...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,
and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:25*

Call to Worship & Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 45:17

All: I will cause Your Name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.

Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

Briarwood Orchestra

*Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has
become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more
in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.*

Invocation

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Hymn of Ascents*

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Hymn 97

The Confession of Truth*

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 60

Leader: How are you righteous before God?

All: Only by true faith in Jesus Christ: that is, although my conscience accuses me,
that I have grievously sinned against all the commandments of God, and have
never kept any of them, and am still prone always to all evil; yet God, without
any merit of mine, of mere grace, grants and imputes to me the perfect
satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never committed
nor had any sins, and had myself accomplished all the obedience which Christ
has fulfilled for me; if only I accept such benefit with a believing heart.

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

*...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6*

Ministry Opportunities for Prayer

Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD’S GLORY
*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing! Psalm 100:1–2*

Presentation & Consecration of God’s Tithe & Our Offerings

The Offertory *“And Can It Be?”*
Briarwood Choirs and Orchestra

Singing of Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs *“It Was Finished Upon that Cross”
“Yet Not I, But through Christ in Me”*

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD
*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof,
for correction, and for training in righteousness... II Timothy 3:16*

Prayer of Illumination*

The New Testament Reading*† Matthew 3:13–17

Exposition of God’s Word Dr. Sandy Willson
“Why Jesus Matters”
Matthew 3:13–17

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD’S PEOPLE
*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living
sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1*

Congregational Affirmation* *“O for a Thousand Tongues” Hymn 76*

Pastoral Benediction*

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.
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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.

Prelude

Welcome

Eric Reebals

Call to Worship

Psalm 135:3

All: Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to His name, for it is pleasant!

Prayer of Invocation

Songs of Praise*

“Jesus Only Jesus”

“All My Boast Is In Jesus”

“My Hope Is In The Lord”

Shane Davis, worship associate

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

Offertory

Daniel Cason

Scripture & Sermon

Dr. Sandy Willson

“The Most Important Thing We Can Do”
Nehemiah 1

Benediction*

Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

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

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

Wednesday night dinners, classes and activities for the entire family resume in January. 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, select an activity, and register for dinners at briarwood.org/midweek.

Sanctity of Life Sunday — National Ministries | January 21

Join us in Worship as we celebrate and honor the Sanctity of Life. Ministry Partners will be recognized during the Morning Worship Services. Following both services, visit and hear from our supported Sanctity of Life Ministry Partners in the Fellowship Hallway. Sunday morning we will hold a Diaper and Wipe drive for the benefit of mothers in need.

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

Ladies, join us January 26–27 for an In-town Retreat hosted here at Briarwood. 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. Cost is \$45 per person. Register at briarwood.org/women.

Sportsman's Blast — Briarwood Men | February 9

Men, bring a friend for a barbeque dinner and to hear the gospel message! This year's speaker is Hugh Jacks. This is a great opportunity to invite non-believers to hear the Gospel. Tickets are available for \$12 in the Briarwood Bookstore or by calling 205-776-5210. For additional information go to briarwood.org/blast.

* Nursery is available upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.

PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray for the MidWeek activities that begin this week. Pray for those teaching and leading activities as they prepare. Pray we will grow stronger in the Lord this year.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for the Lampstand Conference January 18–21 being held at Briarwood. Pray for safe travels of the speakers and attendees from the UK, Canada and the United States. Pray also for the growing health of all churches associated with every attendee.

Hospitalized — Paul Bentley, Charles Gipson, Jeanette Pressgrove, Sharon Mason, Buddy Runnels, Denise Whitfield, Bart Kidd

Our love and sympathy — to Sandra Dorough and family on the death of her brother, David Presson, on December 2; and to Sharon Mason and family on the death of her husband, member Lester Mason, on December 27.

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Weekly Prayer— Saturdays at 7:00 a.m. in the Mountain View House. Start the New Year off in a great way by joining the Saturday Morning Men's Prayer Group.

Women's Spring Studies — Begins January 8. Women, pick from six available classes meeting Monday–Thursday. See class topics, teachers, and additional information at briarwood.org/women. Nursery is available upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.

Men's Spring Studies — Begins January 8. Mondays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Tuesdays at 11:45 at Cajun Seafood House, and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. See class topics, teachers, and additional information at briarwood.org/men.

Ladies' Exercise Classes — Starts January 8 in M111. Meets weekly: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 8:30–9:30 a.m. for all ages and Monday/Friday, 9:30–10:30 a.m. for those needing chair assistance. First class is free. Go to questrecreation.org/fitness-classes for details.

Coffee & Dessert Meet & Greet — January 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Caroline House. Come learn about the Evangelism Ministry and how you can be a part of our exciting ministry.

DivorceCare MidWeek Class — Begins January 10 at 6:30 p.m. DivorceCare is a caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Don't go through separation or divorce alone.

Griefshare MidWeek Class — Wednesdays from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in W203. Begin your journey from mourning to joy. Join our 13-week, video/small group program designed to offer comfort and encouragement. Workbook is \$20. Call 205-776-5227.

Counseling in the Local Church MidWeek Class — Begins January 10 in A201, 6:30–8:30 p.m. This class equips you to begin counseling at the lay level and increases your effectiveness for personal ministry. Contact Emily Hayes 205-776-5354, or emily@bts.edu.

BTS Intensive Classes — January 11–13. Systematics VI (Eschatology) Class on systematic theology. Cost: \$80 (audit) or \$200 (credit). Email to register at emily@bts.education.

Trailblazers Coffee — Tuesday, January 16 from 8:30–9:30 in FH-D. Learn how to improve balance, flexibility and strength from Sarah Brumfield, lead trainer with Graceful Aging Birmingham. Sign up at briarwood.org/trailblazers or sjohnston@briarwood.org.

Become a Briarwood Member — January 17, 20 and 21. All newcomers and prospective members are invited to attend our Briarwood Inquirers Classes. Attending these classes does not obligate you to join. To sign up, email Wendy at wlong@briarwood.org.

Adoption Connection — January 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bride's Room. This group ministers to families who have children through adoption or foster care.

Diapers and Wipes Drive — January 21. We will host a Diaper and Wipe Drive to support Bundles of Hope. Make plans now to bring your bags of diapers and wipes to leave behind your car for pick up while you are in church that day.

Volunteer for Lampstand Conference — Help with housing or transportation for attendees of Briarwood's Lampstand Conference. Volunteers also needed to assemble attendee notebooks/goody bags! Contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org to help.