



## MEANING OF THE CROSSES

Three Crosses have been placed in front of the church with appropriate draping on the Christ cross.

The Purple Drape, leading up to Good Friday, represents the royalty of Christ.

The Black Drape, used on Good Friday and Saturday, represents the death and burial of Christ.

The White Drape of Easter Sunday will declare the triumph of the resurrected Lord.

The White Drape and the Crosses will remain in place until Ascension Sunday, marking the end of Christ's 40-day post-resurrection ministry.

***Pick up a copy of the full Holy Week Devotional this Sunday or view and download it online at [briarwood.org/easter](http://briarwood.org/easter).***



*Briarwood*  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Briarwood Weekly • [info@briarwood.org](mailto:info@briarwood.org) • March 31, 2024

# HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

## SATURDAY

### ON THE SEVENTH DAY HE RESTED

**MATTHEW 27:57-60; HEBREWS 4:1-13**

After Jesus died, Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus and laid Him to rest in a tomb. The two Marys observed where Jesus was laid, and Luke adds that they returned home to prepare spices, but “on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment” (Luke 23:56). This of course refers to the fourth commandment, which calls us to rest from our works (Exodus 20:8-11) and to rest in God’s work of redemption (Deuteronomy 5:15).

But how restless must those women have been! Their Lord had just been crucified and His body lay dead in the tomb! Yet as they strove to rest from their work and to remember God’s acts of deliverance, one wonders if the Spirit recalled to their minds Jesus’ words, “After three days I will rise”. How wonderfully ironic, that as Jesus “rested” in the tomb, God invited His disciples to “rest” in His promise of salvation.

As the author of Hebrews writes, this invitation to enter God’s rest remains for us today, and we are to strive towards that end (Hebrews 4:1-3;11). The tides of trials may assail our faith and we may wonder whether Christ will ever return, but we can rest in God’s promises just as the women could. We can be sure that Christ will return, for He rose again.

Written by Rev. Saeyoung Park

## EASTER SUNDAY

### JESUS IS RESURRECTED

**MATTHEW 28:1-8**

“He is not here, for He is risen.” Never has the absence of someone brought so many blessings. His absence from the tomb means God’s Word is true and He is working to make all things new. His absence means our sins are forgiven, Satan is defeated, and the sting of death is removed. His absence means we worship the living and not the dead. His absence means we have a secure inheritance and a hope that transcends earthly discouragements. His absence means we have the power of the resurrection as we seek to grow in maturity and expand His kingdom. His absence, simply put, means victory.

How do we now walk in this victory and the power that Christ’s resurrection secures for us? First, we worship. Worship is our right response to such great love. Worship also sets our minds on “heavenly things”, refocusing our gaze on eternal matters. Second, we preach. We preach the above truths to troubled, sin-battled souls that need encouragement and a gospel hope. Third, we move. We move out into the world with the confidence that Jesus is alive and He is building His church.

He is risen. He is risen indeed!

Written by Rev. Stephen King

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or view and download it online at [briarwood.org/easter](http://briarwood.org/easter).***

## FEATURED EVENTS

### **Maundy Thursday Communion Service — Holy Week 2024 | March 28 \***

Maundy Thursday is the night that the Passover was transformed and translated from the Old Covenant Meal to the New Covenant Lord's Supper. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for a service of remembrance and celebration with the sacrament of Communion.

### **Good Friday — Holy Week 2024 | March 29 \***

Join us at noon on Good Friday as we assemble for a Service of Reflection on the Cross with Bible readings and the singing of the great Atonement hymns.

### **Easter Sunday — Holy Week 2024 | March 31 \***

Resurrection Lord's Day we celebrate our risen Savior with a Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. and worship services at 8:00 and 10:55 a.m. Continue the celebration of worship Sunday evening with our Briarwood Music Staff and Professionals in Concert.

### **“Raising Up a Sexually Faithful Generation” — Parenting Conference | April 13 \***

This Harvest USA conference hosted here at Briarwood is designed to help give parents insight, practical help, and principles in raising children as they face the sexual confusion of our culture. Register at [briarwood.org/parentingconference](http://briarwood.org/parentingconference).

### **IMPACT Birmingham Day — Church Mobilization | April 27 \***

On the morning of April 27, we will be partnering with local ministries to do service projects including yard work, food distribution, and repair projects. This will be an opportunity to serve together as the body of Christ and IMPACT Birmingham for Christ! See the list of available projects and sign up at [briarwood.org/impact](http://briarwood.org/impact).

\* Nursery is available for select events 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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## IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

### ***Is Easter Unbelievable? Four Questions Everyone Should Ask about the Easter Story* by Rebecca McLaughlin | Adult Book**

The resurrection of Jesus is an extraordinary thing to believe. Such a supernatural event is the stuff of make-believe, many think. Yet millions of Christians around the world believe that Jesus' resurrection was a real, historical event. This concise book outlines the evidence that Jesus really did rise from the dead and why it's the best news ever. Ideal to give away at Easter, as well as to new Christians to remind themselves of their faith. Price: \$3.99

### ***The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross* by Carl Laferton | Children's Book**

This beautiful hardback Bible storybook for 3–6 year olds takes children on a journey from the Garden of Eden to God's perfect new creation. It is a gospel presentation that focuses on the significance of the temple curtain. God said, “Because of your sin you can't come in,” but the moment the curtain tore in two, everything changed! Hardback price: \$12.99, board book price: \$8.99

Featured books are available to purchase online at [briarwood.org/bookstore](http://briarwood.org/bookstore).

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Church and School Offices Closed** — Friday, March 29 in observance of Good Friday.

**Bookstore Holiday Hours** — We will be closed on Good Friday and open Easter Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. if you still need to find a perfect book or gift to bless someone.

**“The Art of Discipleship” MidWeek Class** — April 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Randy Pope will lead this MidWeek Series that will challenge you with the power of intentional relationships that lead to spiritual impact and Kingdom growth.

**Women Business Leaders Event** — Thursday, April 4 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. at The Caroline House. Join garden designer, Molly Hendry, as she shares “From Soil to Soul” with practical tips for cultivating fruit in our lives and gardens. Tickets \$10. Find additional information and register online at [bit.ly/fromsoiltosoul](https://bit.ly/fromsoiltosoul).

**Trailblazers Lunch** — Tuesday April 9 at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Kathryn Lavallet Tortorici, author of *Two by Two—Conversations Between Friends Navigating Breast Cancer*, will be sharing. Tickets \$10 in the Bookstore and online at [Briarwood.org/trailblazers](https://Briarwood.org/trailblazers).

**Congregational Meeting** — April 14. A congregational meeting has been called by the Session following the evening service. The purpose of the meeting is to dissolve the call of Associate Pastor Dave Matthews. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall to express our love and appreciation to Dave and Betty for their 28 years of service and ministry.

**Camp Briarwood Testimonies Needed** — Did Camp Briarwood change your life? Send us a 1–3 minute video sharing your experience. Be sure to end your video with the tagline “CAMP CHANGED MY LIFE!” Email video to [campbriarwoodlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:campbriarwoodlegacy@gmail.com).

**Summer Camp Employment** — Camp Briarwood 2024 counselor applications are now available at [campbriarwood.org](https://campbriarwood.org).

**VBS 2024** — June 3–7. We hope you will join us for Vacation Bible School this year! Online registration will open on April 1 at [briarwood.org/vbs](https://briarwood.org/vbs). Teen helper registration will open in May. Email [rmacoy@briarwood.org](mailto:rmacoy@briarwood.org) for VBS volunteering or [acraig@briarwood.org](mailto:acraig@briarwood.org) for VBS nursery volunteering.

**Faith Promise Pledges** — Turn in your Faith Promise card during a worship service, mail your card to Briarwood, email [faithpromise@briarwood.org](mailto:faithpromise@briarwood.org) with your commitment, or fill out the form at [briarwood.org/faithpromise](https://briarwood.org/faithpromise).

**Graduate Information Needed** — BYG and College graduating seniors, we want to recognize you! Please take a moment to fill out the form on the website. High school seniors go to [briarwood.org/seniors](https://briarwood.org/seniors). College seniors go to [briarwood.org/college](https://briarwood.org/college).

**Mission Trip Needs** — Christian Medical Ministry is collecting donations of ibuprofen (200mg), antifungal cream and 1% hydrocortisone cream for the spring, summer and fall Dominican Republic mission trips. Contact CMMA with questions at 205-776-5470.

**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](https://briarwood.org/employment).

# WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

## **Monday, April 1 — Briarwood Prayer Focus**

*Give thanks in all circumstances.* 1 Thessalonians 5:18 Thank the Lord for our Holy Week services. We are so blessed with our staff and volunteers who participated. Give thanks for John Haines, the choir, orchestra and encouraging preaching we receive each week. Pray for our music ministry and Dr. Dan Doriani.

## **Tuesday, April 2 — Birmingham Prayer Focus**

Briarwood Adoption Ministry seeks to minister to families who adopted children, assist Briarwood families as they go through the adoption process, promote adoption in the church and educate the church about adoption. Pray for the Adoption Connection support group that will meet Wednesday, April 17 in the Bride's Room as they reach out to others to grow the group and encourage members.

## **Wednesday, April 3 — Missions Prayer Focus**

Pray for the international adults who attend our weekly English classes to know and experience the love of Christ in our church and during classes. Pray as they learn about Jesus that they would desire to know him as their Lord and Savior.

## **Thursday, April 4 — Global Ministry Partners**

Pray for Kirk and Anna Norris with RUF serving Internationals; Zsolt and Erika Novak with Novo in Romania; Haruaki and Asami Odate with Mission to the World in Japan; and Raul and Vivi Pacheco with Campus Outreach SERVE serving Internationals.

## **Friday, April 5 — National Ministry Partners**

Pray for Jose and Anna Portillo with Vive Charlotte Church in North Carolina; Neil and Leandra Quinn with Good Shepherd Church in Michigan; Paul and Peggy Reynoso with Navigators in California; Brandon and Katrina Robbins with Birmingham Theological Seminary in Alabama; and Foundations Early Learning and Family Center.

## **Saturday, April 6 — Briarwood Officers and Staff**

Pray for Briarwood elders Hucks Buchanan, Don Hendry, Warren Smedley; deacons Stephen Boyd, John Gomillion, Dave Marshall; and Quest Ministry Director Scott Hannah and wife, Janie.

## **Sunday, April 7 — Church Family**

Pray for our hospitalized members Sandy Bell, Bill Feist, Ellen Fox, Steve Greenall, Betsy Hayes, Kelly Little.

We rejoice with Brandon and Meredith Darroch on the birth of their son, Titus, on March 22.

We offer our love and sympathy to Marvin and Amanda Keffer on the death of their wife and mother, member Linda Keffer, on March 20; to Chesley Kalehoff and family on the death of her father, Lee Peed, on March 21; to Judy Black and family on the death of her sister, Jean Campbell, on March 21; and to Ken Francis, Wendy, Matthew, Benjamin, and Josh Handley on the death of their wife, mother and grandmother, member Sheryl Francis, on March 24.

*O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice... Psalm 5:3*

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## THIS LORD'S DAY

**Easter Sunday Sunrise Service: (6:30 a.m.)**

“Tetelestai – IT is Finished!”

Luke 23:44–24:12

Bruce Stallings

**Easter Sunday Morning Worship Services:**

Dr. Dan Doriani

**Easter Sunday Evening Worship:**

Resurrection Evening Worship Recital

“Where Have You Been?”

Luke 24:13-35

Jay Shaw

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook, YouTube or [briarwood.org](http://briarwood.org).  
Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.