



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 – November 24, 2024

Worship Leaders

Dr. Dan Doriani, Interim Senior Pastor

Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist

Dr. John Haines, Worship Pastor

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 30:12

All: O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever!

Prelude & Time of Meditation

"Amazing Grace"
Briarwood Orchestra

As the prophets of old cried out among Your people who were weary and downcast, yearning for the coming Promised Messiah, so today Your call rings out through the proclamation of Your Word, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" Oh Lord, speak to my heart during this season of grace as You spoke to Your prophets and saints. Allow me to fix my gaze upon Christ, Redeemer and Savior of His people, and to relive the joy of His blessed Advent.

Choral Introit

"This Is My Father's World"

Invocation

Gospel Word of Salvation

Receiving of New Members (10:55)

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Hymns of Thanksgiving*

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" Hymn 559

"For the Beauty of the Earth" Hymn 560

"We Gather Together" Hymn 561

The Confession of Truth*

Revelation 1:5–6

Leader: *To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood*

All: And made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God!

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

Praise the LORD! It is good to sing praises to our God... Psalm 147:1a

Presentation & Consecration of God's Tithes & Our Offerings

The Offertory

"Christus Victor"

Singing of Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs*

"O Great God"

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*†

Philippians 4:10-13

Exposition of God's Word

Dr. Trent Casto
Sr. Pastor at Covenant Church of Naples

"The Secret to Contentment"

Philippians 4:10-13

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

For the Love of Christ controls us... II Corinthians 5:14a

Congregational Affirmation*

"Now Thank We All Our God" Hymn 556

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 Thanksgiving – 6:00 p.m.

Prelude

Welcome

Bryan Wintersteen, Global Missions Pastor

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1–3

Leader: *Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!*

All: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Prayer of Invocation

Songs of Praise*

“Indescribable”
“Worthy Worthy”

Shane Davis, Worship Associate

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Hymn

Shane Davis

Scripture & Sermon

Rev. Saeyoung Park, Singles Pastor

“Feasting With the Lord”

1 Corinthians 10:1–4; Exodus 24:9–11; Deuteronomy 27:3–7

Season of Thanksgiving & Prayer

Doxology*

Benediction*

Postlude

WELCOME TO BRIARWOOD

We're delighted you are worshipping 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

Children's Choirs Program — Evening Worship Service | December 1 *

The Briarwood Children's Choirs bless us with the singing of Christmas songs and begin our Season of Advent during evening worship on December 1.

“O, Come Let Us Adore Him” — The Briarwood Ballet | December 8 *

Celebrate the Advent season with the Briarwood Ballet as they lead us in worship with their presentation of “O, Come Let Us Adore Him” on Sunday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Admission is free. Learn more at briarwood.org/ballet.

Walk Through Nativity — Church Wide Event | December 11–13

Relive the Advent story by visiting 12 biblical scenes with narrated drama using live actors and animals on the nights of December 11, 12 and 13 from 6:45–8:45 p.m. This event is completely free and open to the public. Over 700 volunteer actors, costumers, parking attendants, scene-builders, and greeters are needed for this year's Walk Through. Sign up online at briarwood.org/nativity or call 205-776-5282.

“Hallelujah! Hope in Christ” — Briarwood Christmas Festival | December 15 *

Experience Advent through musical and artistic presentations from the Briarwood Sanctuary Choir and the Festival Orchestra with guests, the Birmingham Boys Choir and The Briarwood Ballet. This event is free and open to the public.

Christmas Eve Services — Evening Worship | December 24 *

Join us for Family Candlelight Services at 5:00 & 7:00 p.m. At 11:00 p.m. we will partake in the Lord's Supper with a Candlelight Communion Service.

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

PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Briarwood Prayer Focus — We come before the Lord with thanksgiving and praise Him for His steadfast love and gracious work in our lives. Thank the Lord for the blessings He has given us and how He helps us use those blessings to bless others. Pray for Lord to be preparing the man He has to be our Senior Pastor and for the Pulpit Search Committee as they continue their work to this end.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray that many students involved with Briarwood's ESL ministry would take part in upcoming Christmas events, such as the Walk Through Nativity and Briarwood's Annual International Christmas party. Pray God would use the Christmas season and the Christmas story to draw many to Himself. *The flag of Ukraine is featured in today's service.*

Hospitalized — Sandy Bell, Jack Wright, Bonnie Stroud

Our love and sympathy — to the family and friends of member Ann Patton on her death on November 11; and to David Jones and family on the death of his grandson, David Bostic, on November 16.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Congregational Meetings — The Session has called Congregational Meetings for Sunday, December 1 for the purpose of selecting officers for the Class of 2027 and Sunday, December 8 for the purposes of receiving the 2025 General Fund Budget and electing the slate of candidates receiving the highest number of votes on December 1. Both meetings will be from 8:00 a.m. to the conclusion of the 10:55 a.m. service. On December 8 there will be a special order at 10:35 a.m. in the Worship Center to receive the 2025 budget.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes — This morning is the last opportunity to turn in boxes to the Children's Auditorium Hallway. If you would like to build a box online instead (\$25), go online to briarwood.org/occ.

Briarwood Angels — Drop off your gifts this morning to the area in front of the Bookstore/Library. Contact Amy Wood with any questions at apwood@briarwood.org or 205-776-5222.

"I Cared Enough" Gospel Thanksgiving Feast — Tuesday, November 26. Donate and help Daniel Cason Ministries feed 20,000 homeless, special needs and elderly individuals in the Birmingham area. Find details for volunteering and contributing canned goods or hot food (cooked turkeys/ham, vegetables and desserts) at icaredenough.com.

Briarwood Holiday Closing — Church and School Offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on November 28 and 29. Church gates will close at 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27 and reopen at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 30.

Pickleball Christmas Party — December 3 from 6:00–9:00 p.m. in the Gym. Briarwood will host the Pickleball Christmas Party again this year. Join us for good fellowship, tasty treats, door prizes, and of course, the great game of pickleball!

Christmas Poinsettias — On sale through December 8. Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone this Advent season. Dedications are \$20 each and are available for purchase in the Membership Office or online at briarwood.org/poinsettia.

Canned Food Drive — Sunday, December 8. Begin gathering your canned goods and non-perishables for Oak Mountain Missions. That Sunday, you will leave your donations behind your vehicle for the Mercy Ministry Team to pick up while you are in church.

Trailblazers Lunch — Sunday December 8 at 12:15 p.m. Come enjoy lunch and hear our US Representative, Gary Palmer. Tickets \$12 are online at briarwood.org/trailblazers.

Submit Your EMC Pledge — You can still turn in your pledge for EMC. Go online to briarwood.org/emc or bring your Pledge Card to the Church Accounting Office.

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.

Daily Prayer Notification — Receive a daily prayer notification through the Briarwood App. In your Briarwood App settings, enable "Weekly Prayer Guide" notifications.