

LET US FIND OUR
Rest ^{IN} *Thee*



*For the creation waits
with eager longing for the revealing
of the sons of God.*

ROMANS 8:19



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

First Sunday of Advent – December 1, 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 98:4

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

Prelude & Time of Meditation

"Agnus Dei" (8:00)

Aimee Weaver, soloist

"Heavenly Light" (10:55)

Chamber Ensemble, Tom Horner Conductor

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

Matt & Shana Moton family (8:00)

Cory & Miller Hershey family (10:55)

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Carol of Ascents*

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Carol 124

The Confession of Truth*

Isaiah 7:14

All: Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

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

Musical Offering of Worship

"No Eye Had Seen"

Briarwood Sanctuary Choir

Audrey Jowers; Korey Kox; Alonza Jones, soloists

Worship Through Carols of Christmas* *"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"* Carol 128
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Carol 123

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*†

Romans 8:1–11

Exposition of God's Word

Dr. Dan Doriani

"God's gifts: No Condemnation and Union with Christ"
Romans 8:1–11

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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

Congregational Affirmation*

"The Doxology"

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.

Welcome

John Haines

“Happy Birthday, Jesus!”

Pre-school Christmas Choir

Julia Shirley, Pre-school Choir Coordinator

“To Bethlehem”

“No Room”

“All I Have”

“Away in a Manger”

“Room Around the Manger”

“Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus”

Luke 2-7:14

“Worship the King!”

Briarwood Children’s Choirs

Shanna Philips, Children’s Choir Director

“The Little Drummer Boy” –Matthew Genin

“God Rest You Merry Gentlemen” –Gerald Jowers

“Go Tell it on the Mountain” –Judson Jowers

“Caroling Song”

“Christmas Is a Time for Singing”

“Christ Was Born on Christmas Day”

“Go, Go, Go to Bethlehem”

“The Little Drummer Boy”

“Away in a Manger”

“Worship the King”

Presentation of Diaconate Gifts to Children

Jake Stallings

Pastoral Benediction*

John Haines

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

“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 — Pray the Lord would guide us as we select men for the positions of church elder and deacon. Pray that we will have men who will mount up with Your strength day after day as they lead and serve our church faithfully. Pray for discernment and wisdom as the Pulpit Search Committee works through the surveys and comments from our congregation to build a profile for our next Senior Pastor.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for the ministry of Grace Klein Community as they serve Birmingham by meeting physical and spiritual needs. Pray for continued partnerships with churches, businesses, and individuals who feed Birmingham. Praise God for their impact in rescuing food and feeding thousands of households.

Hospitalized — Jane Bush, Jack Wright, Sandy Bell, Robert Pugh, Jane Bush

We rejoice — with Josh and Ali Wheeler on the birth of their daughter, Talia Grace, on November 15.

Our love and sympathy — to Tom Rivers and family on the death of his sister, Sally Creel, on November 20

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

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.

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.

Trailblazers Christmas Sing-A-Long — Thursday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m. Meet us at Cahaba Ridge Retirement Community to sing familiar Christmas songs with Hunter Goff. Sign up online at briarwood.org/trailblazers or email sjohnston@briarwood.org.

Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed — January 23–26, 2025. 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 and transportation. If you can help in any of these ways, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org or 205-776-5243.

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 bscruggs@briarwood.org.

Worship Flowers — The flowers in the Worship Center on November 24 are given to the glory of God in memory of Walter Leveille from his memorial service on November 19.

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.

Job Opening: Hispanic Pastor — Bilingual pastor needed to shepherd our Hispanic congregation. Candidate must be ordained or ordainable in the PCA. Send resume to hmcdougall@briarwood.org or call 205-776-5404.

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