



GOD'S
Christmas Gifts

ROMANS 8:31-32

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

*He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for
us all, how will He not also with Him graciously
give us all things?”*



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent – December 8, 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 97:1

All: The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice!

Prelude & Time of Meditation

“Christmas Joy and Glory”

Briarwood Orchestra

Our glorious Savior and Redeemer, when the angels split open the skies over Bethlehem on that night long ago, their message was that of “Peace on earth!” Yet today, we are prone to wander from the very One who came to fulfill this promise to give us everlasting peace. Remind us anew, Lord, that the message the angels brought that night is one that can only be fulfilled as we yield our lives completely to You. As we prepare to celebrate Your birth, O Lord, may we be given a foretaste of the eternal peace that is yet to come.

Choral Introit

“Gloria”

Briarwood Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra

Carrie Turner, Denise Wichlan, Tom Horner, Jr., Shane Davis, soloists

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle & Advent Reading

Drew & Mary Claire Vaughan family (8:00)

Steve & Laura Giddens family (10:55)

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Carol of Ascents*

“Joy to the World”

The Confession of Truth*

Matthew 1:20–21

Leader: *But as Joseph considered these things, behold, an angel of the LORD appeared to him in a dream, saying,*

All: “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins.”

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God!

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

"Still, Still, Still"
Briarwood Bell Choir
Shane Davis, Worship Associate

Worship Through Carols of Christmas* *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* Carol 132
"Angels from the Realms of Glory" Carol 131

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD
Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me Your statutes! Psalm 119:12

Prayer of Illumination*

The New Testament Reading*† Romans 8:12–17

Exposition of God's Word Dr. Dan Doriani

"God's Gifts: Adoption as Children of God"
Romans 8:12–17

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

Congregational Response *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* Hymn 2

Pastoral Benediction*

Congregational Affirmation* *"The Doxology"*

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 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

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

Relive the Jesus life 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 the joys of Christmas through musical and artistic presentations from the Briarwood Sanctuary Choir and the Festival Orchestra with guests, the Birmingham Boys Choir and The Briarwood Ballet in the Worship Center at 6:00 p.m. 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.

The Lampstand Birmingham Conference — Church Revitalization | January 23–26

You are invited to attend The Lampstand Conference, a conference on Church Health and Revitalization, hosted here at Briarwood. Find details at briarwood.org/lampstand.

* 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 will bless the people in our community who will receive food brought to the church for the Mercy Ministry's Food Drive. Thank Him for those who generously gave to help with this need. Praise the Lord for productive meetings and unity among the Pulpit Search Committee. Continue praying for the man who will be our next Senior Pastor.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for the 2025 Lampstand Conference being held at Briarwood January 23–26. Pray for the preparations, the volunteers needed, and that many registrations will continue to be made. Pray especially for the speakers who will give presentations during the conference regarding church health and vitality.

Hospitalized — Mike Forester, Robert Pugh, Lolly Wilson, Brian O'Brien, Joy Blazer, Steve Greenall

Our love and sympathy — to Eric, Cal, Luke, Grey and Livi Reebals and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Fred Whaley Reebals Jr. on November 30; and to Joy and Chris Blazer on the death of their sister and aunt, Sandi Fretwell Fahey, on December 3.

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Called Congregational Meeting — The men who received the most votes from Officer Selection last Sunday, December 1, are on a final slate presented for the church membership to elect today in all morning worship services. There is also a special order at 10:35 a.m. in the Worship Center to receive the 2025 budget.

Christmas Poinsettias — Sale ends today. Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone this Advent season. Dedications are \$20 each and available for purchase online at briarwood.org/poinsettia until midnight.

Persecuted Church Prayer Meeting — Tonight at 5:00 p.m. in G103. Come pray with the Persecuted Church Prayer Team for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. All are invited to join us for this special time of prayer.

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.

Ambassador Holiday Soccer Camp — December 27–28 from 9:00 a.m.–noon. Camp for boys/girls ages 7–12. Register at briarwoodsoccer.com. Open to the public.

Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed — January 23–26. 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. Contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org or 205-776-5243 if you can help in either of these ways.

December Nursery — Sign-up for nursery age children is needed for any of our Sunday night events, including the 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services. Make reservations at briarwood.org/nursery.

Christmas Eve Nursery Volunteers Needed — If you are willing to help keep our little ones for the 5:00 service, contact Alison Craig at acraig@briarwood.org.

Year-End Giving — The Accounting Office will close for the year on December 31 at 5:00 p.m. Contributions received in the mail must be postmarked or canceled by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2024. Contributions with January 2025 postmarks will be considered 2025 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 bscruggs@briarwood.org.

Job Opening: Nursery Ministry Director — This position will implement, lead, and oversee the nursery ministry to serve our young parents by creating a safe and nurturing environment. Contact Jay Shaw at 205-776-5389 or send resume to jshaw@briarwood.org.

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.