



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

Third Sunday of Advent – December 15, 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 72:19

All: Blessed be His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen and Amen!

Prelude & Time of Meditation

"Silent Night"

Laurie Borland & Beth Mooney, flutists

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.

Solo Introit

"Immanuel"

Hunter Goff, Joby Hurst & Korey Cox, soloists

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle & Advent Reading

Andrew & Katie Russell family (8:00)

Matt & Anna Heard family (10:55)

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Carol of Ascents*

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Carol 145

The Confession of Truth*

Nicene Creed

Leader: *Christians, what do we believe concerning God, the Father?*

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

Leader: *Christians, what do we believe concerning God, the Son?*

All: We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all the worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was

made man, and crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

Leader: *Christians, what do we believe concerning God, the Holy Spirit?*

All: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

"Mothers and Shepherds"
Hannah Brennan, soloist

Worship Through Carols of Christmas*

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice" Carol 151
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Carol 143

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 8:28–30

Exposition of God's Word

Dr. Dan Doriani

"God's Gifts: God's Sovereign Love"
Romans 8:28–32

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE
*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13*

Congregational Affirmation*

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Carol 124

Pastoral Benediction*

Postlude

FELLOWSHIP OF WORSHIP

Evening Service of Praise and Proclamation – 6:00 p.m.

BRIARWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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HALLELUJAH

HOPE

IN CHRIST

A BRIARWOOD CHRISTMAS
FEATURING
THE BRIARWOOD SANCTUARY CHOIR
AND THE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA
AND GUESTS
THE BIRMINGHAM BOYS CONCERT CHOIR
AND THE BRIARWOOD BALLET

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 6:00 P.M.

*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.

FEATURED EVENTS

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.

MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | January 8–April 9 *

Wednesday night dinners, classes and activities for the entire family. 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 and register for dinners at briarwood.org/midweek.

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.

Women's In-Town Retreat — Women's Ministry | January 31–February 1

Ladies, join us for an In-town Retreat. This year's theme will be "By Design: The One Thread of Scripture" and our keynote speaker will be Meaghan May. Early registration cost is \$45 per person thru January 2, then \$55 through January 22. Registration opens December 16 at briarwood.org/women.

* 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 for the Sanctuary Choir, Orchestra, Briarwood Ballet, and the Birmingham Boys Choir as they lift up His holy name in the "Hallelujah! Hope in Christ" Christmas Festival. Give thanks for all the people involved in this Christmas worship service. Praise the Lord for strong congregational participation in the recent survey and in the Discovery Weekend event, which has provided the Pulpit Search Committee with very helpful input. Pray for the Pulpit Search Committee as they consider the congregational input. May God guide the process and give them wisdom.

Missions Prayer Focus — Praise the Lord for over 200 internationals who attended Briarwood's Annual International Christmas Party. Pray for the follow-up and that through the Christmas events at Briarwood they would be drawn to Christ.

Hospitalized — Michelle Davis, Merle Howard, John Lathram, Janet Norden, Linda Cobb, Robert Pugh

Our love and sympathy — to Joy Blazer and family on the death of her sister, Sandi Fretwell Fahey, on December 3; to Doris Davis and family on the death of her sister, Betty Egbert, on December 4; and to Betsy Gallo and family on the death of her husband, member Richard Gallo, on December 6.

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Local Ministry Prayer Time — Tonight at 5:00 p.m. in G103. Come pray for our ministry partners and their work in spreading the love of Christ throughout Birmingham.

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.

Communion — The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 24 in the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

PCA Offering — Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews on Christmas Eve. Through the Ministerial Relief Fund, the Christmas Offering provides monthly, supplemental income to our retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows and dependent children who have low income and meet the Relief Fund guidelines. More information at briarwood.org/pcaoffering.

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.

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.

Elders and Deacons Elected — In accordance to the Book of Church Order the following men were elected by members of Briarwood Presbyterian Church on December 8, 2024.

Elders: (Class of 2027) Steve Abernathy, Bobby Bardin, Ed Chan, Dave Cooper Jr., Al Craig, Chase Crawford, Glenn Draper, Jeff Dunn, Dave Giddens, David Harris, Carter Harsh, George Hodges, Zach Ivey, Tom Jackson, Sam Mooney, Loring Muir, Mike Mungenast, Don Murphy, David Myers, Tripp Reid, Tom Rivers, Nathan Sasse, Tom Smitherman, Bobby Welch, Bob Zachow

Deacons: (Class of 2027) John Asbeck, Scott Austin, Austin Barr, Roger Bittinger, Jamie Burns, Chris Cain, Jason Cole, Ed Corcoran, Larkin Delk, David Duffee, Gary Durbin, Jordan Freeman, Harrison Godwin, Ben (Ashley) Greene, Raymond Greer, Cory Hershey, Philip Holcombe, Bryan Huffstutler, Gerald Jowers, Jonathan Kalehoff, Jon Austin Moore, Fred Morris, Richard O'Neal, Chuck Pierce, Larry Pirkle, Wes Pruet, Carter Ralph, Harris Saunders, Wes Schaeffer, Mike Stewart, Nathan Terrell, Josiah Van Puffelen, Chuck Warlick, Tate West, Bryan Wintersteen, Greg Wolchok, Lee Woodfin

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.