



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22, 2024

Worship Leaders

Dr. Dan Doriani, Interim Senior Pastor

Dr. John Haines, Worship Pastor

Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist

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 24:7–8

Leader: *Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

All: Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Briarwood Bell Choir

Our great God, Sovereign of the universe, creator of all that is, we come before You today humbled that You have deigned to condescend to us, and not only love us with an everlasting love, but redeem us from our sin and ourselves through the blood of Your perfect and spotless Son, Jesus Christ. Hear us now as we confess our sins to You and prepare to worship You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle & Reading

JD & Cierra Bragan family (8:00)

David & Claire Roebuck family (10:55)

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Carol of Ascents*

“Joy to the World” Carol 125

The Confession of Truth*

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions 26 & 27

Leader: *What did Christ's humiliation consist of?*

All: Christ's humiliation consisted of His being born in a low condition, living under the Law, undergoing the miseries of this life, undergoing the wrath of God and the cursed death of the Cross, and in being buried and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Leader: *What does Christ's exaltation consist of?*

All: Christ's exaltation consists of His rising again from the dead on the third day, ascending to heaven, sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and coming to judge the world on the last day.

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE
O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice... Psalm 5:3

Pulpit Committee Update

Billy Ball, Ruling Elder
Chairman, Pulpit Committee

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

"Labor of Love"
Hannah Brennan, soloist

Worship Through Carols of Christmas*

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" Carol 133
"Away in a Manger" Carol 158

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 8:31–39

Exposition of God's Word

Dr. Dan Doriani

"God's Gifts: Meditations on God's Gifts"
Romans 8:31–39

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE
The LORD bless you and keep you... Numbers 6:24

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

An Evening of Lessons and Carols – 6:00 p.m.

Prelude	<i>“Emmanuel; We Three Kings”</i> Timothy Asbeck
	<i>“Ding Dong, Merrily On High”</i> Abigail Asbeck
Welcome	Rev. Rob Looper National/Revitalization Pastor
Call to Worship	Psalm 47:8
All:	God reigns over the nations, God sits on His Holy throne.
Christmas Introit	<i>“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”</i> Timothy Asbeck
	<i>“What Child Is This?”</i> Ethan Monasterio
	<i>“The First Noel”</i> Abigail Asbeck
Lesson #1	Matthew 1:18–21
Carol of Praise	<i>“O Come, All Ye Faithful”</i> Chris Neugent
Ministry in Music	Kimberly Goolsby, soloist
Lesson #2	Luke 2:1–7
Offertory & Prayer	
Ministry in Music	Rose & Ethan Davis
Lesson #3	Luke 2:8–14
Ministry in Music	Laura Looper
Lesson #4	Luke 2:15–20
Carol of Adoration	<i>“Angels We Have Heard on High”</i>
Homily	Dr. Dan Doriani, Interim Senior Pastor
Closing Prayer	
Carol of Response	<i>“The First Noel”</i>
Benediction*	
Postlude	

FEATURED EVENTS

Christmas Eve Services — Evening Worship | December 24 *

Join us for Family Candlelight Services at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. At 11:00 p.m., we will celebrate 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 the In-town Retreat "By Design: The One Thread of Scripture." Our keynote speaker will be Meaghan May. Registration cost is \$45 per person through January 2, then \$55 through January 22. Register 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 — Give praises for the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ! *Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"* (Charles Wesley, 1739). Psalm 32 says our Heavenly Father will guide and direct our path and watch over us with His steadfast love. Pray for the Pulpit Search Committee as they rely on direction and guidance from Him.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for Trevor and Rebecca who are primary care doctors serving with World Venture in West Africa. They share the gospel as they provide care to the unreached Maninka people. Pray they can partner with other missionaries and the local church to enter other towns and villages make disciples, and plant churches.

Hospitalized — Bob Gilmore, Larry Holley, John Lathram, Jim Lawrence, Leigh McCarty, Robert Pugh, Denise Whitworth, Nancy Worthington, Joy Blazer, Jerry Wilson, Leland Eaton, Pat Goff

We rejoice — with Kevin and Rachel Plyler on the birth of their son, Hampton Andrew Plyler, on December 10.

Our love and sympathy — to Mark Rose and family on the death of his grandmother, Marjorie Williams, on December 9; and to Bonnie Goetz and family on the death of her husband, member John Goetz, on December 15; and to Brian, Matthew, Benjamin and Josh Handley and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Patricia Handley, on December 16.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Bookstore Hours — Come to the Briarwood Bookstore for your last-minute gifts. Last date for Christmas shopping is Monday, December 23. The store will be closed on December 24 and 25 for Christmas and on December 31 and January 1 for New Year's.

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. You can find more information at briarwood.org/pcaoffering.

Christmas Poinsettias — Poinsettias dedicated may be picked up to take home following the Christmas Eve Candlelight services.

Church Gate Closings — On Tuesday, December 24, the gates will open at 3:00 p.m. in preparation for the Christmas Eve Services and close following the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. The gates will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas Day, as well as Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Church and School Offices Holiday Closings — Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas; then again Wednesday, January 1 for the New Year holiday.

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.

K4–6th Grade Passport Night — Friday, January 10 from 6:00–8:30 p.m. Come and explore Germany through food and fun! Drop-off is in the Ministries Lobby and pickup in the Children's Auditorium. Register online by Thursday, January 9 at noon at briarwood.org/children. Parents volunteer by emailing ebaker@briarwood.org.

Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed — January 23–26. Briarwood is hosting the upcoming conference where pastors and church leaders from across the country will attend. If you are willing to house, lend a vehicle or drop off snacks before the conference, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org or call 775-5243.

Year-End Giving — The Accounting Office will be closing for the year on Tuesday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m. Contributions received in the mail must be postmarked or canceled by Tuesday, 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.