



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 – December 29, 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 48:10, 14

Leader: *As Your Name, O God, so Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.*

All: He will guide us forever.

Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

"Unto Us a Son is Given"

Joby Hurst, soloist

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.

Invocation

Gospel Word of Salvation

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Hymn of Ascents*

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

The Confession of Truth*

The Apostle's Creed

Leader: *Christians, what do you believe?*

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Universal*

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE
I call upon the LORD, Who is worthy to be praised... Psalm 18:3

Ministry Opportunities for Prayer

Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Psalm 98:1a

Presentation & Consecration of God's Tithe & Our Offerings

The Offertory

Hunter Goff, Organist

Singing of Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs*

"Build My Life"
"Be Thou My Vision"

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD
...for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Acts 20:27

Prayer of Illumination*

The New Testament Reading*†

Exposition of God's Word

Rev. Jim Alexander
Pastoral Care Pastor

"A Life Pleasing to God"
Romans 12:1-2

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

Congregational Affirmation*

"The Doxology with Alleluias"

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.

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Jim Alexander

Call to Worship

Psalm 125:1–2

Leader: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

All: As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.

Prayer of Invocation

Songs of Praise*

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

Scripture & Sermon

Rev. Stephen King
Young Couples Pastor

“Compelled by the Cornerstone”
Acts 4:1–2

Doxology*

Benediction*

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

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.

Sanctity of Life Sunday — National Ministries | January 19

Join us to celebrate the Sanctity of Life. Our Ministry Partners will be recognized in the morning worship and you can visit with them in the Fellowship Hallway following the services. View a list of Briarwood's Ministry Partners at briarwood.org/sanctity.

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

What part do churches' members have in helping make their church healthy? Come be encouraged on how a church stays healthy by being on mission, on message, and in ministry. Members are invited to the Lampstand Conference for the special rate of \$75 per person or \$100 per couple! 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

Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Psalm 37:4–6

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray the Lord would help us to humbly seek Him by setting our hearts and minds on Him. May we be ever mindful of His presence with us and seek Him continually. Psalm 37 says to delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Pray for the Pulpit Search Committee as they continue their work and trust the Lord to bring us a Senior Pastor.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for church planter Ben Kappers and All Saints Church in St. George, Utah. God has blessed All Saints over the last two years with steady growth but recently is losing several families due to relocations. Pray for God to provide more laborers for the harvest and for new families and individuals who will be an encouragement to this young fellowship.

Hospitalized — Ken Austin, Joy Blazer, Leland Eaton, John Lathram, Leigh McCarty, Chris Peterson, Jerry Wilson

Our love and sympathy — to Theodore Woo and family on the death of his father, Thomas Woo, on December 19.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Bookstore Hours — The store will be closed December 31–January 1 for New Year's.

Church Buildings and Gate Closing — Church and school offices as well as the church gates will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 for the New Year's Day holiday.

Women's Winter/Spring Bible Studies — Begins January 6. Ladies join one of our six Bible studies this winter/spring. We have opportunities in person and online; in the morning and during the evening; and studies in the Old Testament and New Testament. For more information and to register, visit briarwood.org/women.

Men's Spring Studies — Begins January 6. Mondays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Tuesdays at 11:45 at Cajun Seafood House, and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. See class topics, teachers, and additional information at briarwood.org/men.

Infant Baptism Class — Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bride's Room. The Sacrament of Infant Baptism Who? What? Why? How? Stephen King will teach on the meaning of Infant Baptism and answer any questions. This class is open to all ages. To register, contact Leigh Anne Reese at 205-776-5301 or lreese@briarwood.org.

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.

Trailblazers Coffee — Tuesday January 14 at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall D. Senior Living Advisor Melissa Cooper will share about how Senior Placement Services can recommend local communities, arrange tours, and accompany you on those tours as your advocate. Sign up at briarwood.org/trailblazers.

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 205-776-5243.

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.