

BRIARWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## JESUS, THE SERVANT

*But He was pierced for our  
transgressions; He was crushed  
for our iniquities; upon Him was  
the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with His wounds we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:5

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent – December 14, 2025

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## Worship Leaders

Dr. Scott Redd, 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,*

## Call to Worship & Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 33:1

Pastor: *Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous ones.*

All: Praise from the upright is beautiful.

## Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

*"Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion"*

Audrey Jowers, Soloist

*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.*

## Choral Introit

*"There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field"*

*"Glory to God in the Highest"*

Carrie Turner, Soloist; Briarwood Choir

## Invocation

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

Matthew & Julie Moore family (8:00)

Dave & Mallory Marshall family (11:00)

## Greeting of Grace & Peace\*

## Carol of Ascents\*

*"Angels from the Realms of Glory"* Carol 131

## Confession of Truth\*

Westminster Longer Catechism #48 & 49; Philippians 2:7-8

Pastor: *How did Christ humble Himself in His conception and birth?*

All: Christ humbled Himself in His conception and birth by being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary and born of her, yet she remained a virgin. Christ was born into a low condition and lived under the law that He Himself had made. He was subject to the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross. He was buried and continued under the power of death for a time.

Pastor: *How did Christ humble Himself in His life?*

All: Christ humbled Himself in His life by subjecting Himself to the law, which He perfectly fulfilled, and by enduring the indignities of the world, the

temptations of Satan, and the infirmities of the flesh, whether common to humanity or especially accompanying His low condition. As the Scriptures say: He emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

#### THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

*...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication*

### 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

*"Who Is This?"*

Hannah Darlington, Soloist

#### Worship Through Carols of Christmas\*

*"Joy to the World!"* Carol 125

*"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"* Carol 133

#### THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me Your statutes! Psalm 119:12*

#### Prayer of Illumination\*

#### Scripture Reading\*†

Isaiah 52:13–53:6

#### Exposition of God's Word

Dr. Scott Redd, Pastor

*"Jesus, the Servant"*

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

#### THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,*

#### Congregational Affirmation\*

*"The Doxology"*

#### Pastoral Benediction\*

#### Postlude

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\*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.

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email: [info@briarwood.org](mailto:info@briarwood.org) — website: [briarwood.org](http://briarwood.org)

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# FELLOWSHIP OF WORSHIP

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

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**Prelude**

**Welcome**

Rev. Jim Alexander, Pastor of Pastoral Care

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 96:3

Pastor: *Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!*

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Lessons & Carols**

**Meditation**

Wright Draper, Senior Adults Pastor

“The Testimony of Simeon”

Luke 2:25–32

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

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## FEATURED EVENTS

### **“Your Light Has Come” — Briarwood Christmas Festival | December 21 \***

Come experience Advent through musical and artistic presentations from the Briarwood Sanctuary Choir, Youth Choirs, Orchestra, and Ballet featuring special guest, Sandra McCracken. 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 Conference — Church Revitalization | January 22–24**

You are invited to attend The Lampstand Conference, a conference on Church Health and Revitalization, hosted here at Briarwood. Church members are eligible for a reduced registration rate. Find details and register at [briarwood.org/lampstand](http://briarwood.org/lampstand).

\* Nursery is available for select events upon reservation at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).

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## PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

**Briarwood Prayer Focus** — Heavenly Father, help us share the love of God in Jesus Christ the Son through every Advent outreach opportunity You give this season. “For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

**Missions Prayer Focus** — Please pray for the 2026 Lampstand Conference January 22–24. Pray for many registrations, preparations involved, volunteers and especially the speakers who will teach regarding church health and vitality. The flag of Birmingham is featured in the Worship Center this morning.

**Church Family** — Pray for our hospitalized members Ralph Bidwell, Christi Bono, Carolyn Campbell, Sue Cizek, Jean Goebel, Jim Leonard, Barbara Matthews.

Our love and sympathy to Chase Crawford and family on the death of his father, Mickey Crawford, on December 4; to Paul Cleveland and family on the death of his mother, Ellene Cleveland, on December 5; to Jilly and Ezekiel Jones and family on the loss of their mother and grandmother, Betty Washington on December 6; to Lance Radbill and family on the death of his brother, Geoff Radbill, on December 7; and to Mike, Drew and Hannah Brunson and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Dee Brunson, on December 7.

We rejoice with Matheus Teles and Darlie Nuza on the birth of their daughter, Liz, on November 28; and with Harrison and Catherine Godwin on the birth of their daughter, Heidi Catherine, on December 8, and with grandparents Jimmy and Beth Jordan.

Receive each day's prayer as a notification through the Briarwood App. In your Briarwood App settings, enable “Weekly Prayer Guide” notifications.

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Congregational Meeting** — The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 14 for the purpose of electing the slate of candidates receiving the highest number of votes on December 7. The meeting will run from 8:00 a.m. to the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. service. There will be a special order at 10:35 a.m. in the Worship Center to receive the 2026 budget.

**Persecuted Church Prayer Meeting** — This evening at 5:00 p.m. in G103. All are invited to a special time of prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Camp Counselor** — December 15 at 5:30 p.m. in G-101. Come hear about what it's like to be a camp counselor and get the chance to talk to current counselors about their testimony with Camp. Pizza will be provided! RSVP to [quest@briarwood.org](mailto:quest@briarwood.org).

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

**BYG Laguna Beach Retreat** — December 27–30. All 9th–12th graders, don't miss this incredible trip as we close out the year with seaside activities, teaching from Wright Draper, and worship with Ezra Worship Initiative. Register at [briarwood.org/laguna](http://briarwood.org/laguna).

**Year-End Giving** — The Accounting Office will be closing for the year on Wednesday, 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 2025. Contributions with January 2026 postmarks will be considered 2026 contributions.

**Camp Briarwood Registration** — Day Camp for rising 1st thru 3rd graders is June 8–12. Four Overnight Camp session options are available for rising 4th thru 10th graders during June 22–July 18. Register today at [campbriarwood.org](http://campbriarwood.org).

**Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed** — We need volunteers for housing and assembling notebooks for those attending our conference on January 22–24, 2026. If you would like to serve in these areas, contact Christi Bono at [cbono@briarwood.org](mailto:cbono@briarwood.org).

**Securities Stewardship** — When giving gifts of securities, please notify our Church Administrator at the time of your gift so that your contribution may be processed accurately and efficiently. Call 205-776-5205 or email [bscruggs@briarwood.org](mailto:bscruggs@briarwood.org).

**Sunday Greeters Needed** — We would love for your smiling face to be a welcoming presence for each person who walks through our doors. All ages can participate! You can serve individually or as a family. Email [abarton@briarwood.org](mailto:abarton@briarwood.org) to volunteer.

**Job Opening: Women's & Children's Counselor** — Qualifications include a master's degree in biblical counseling and five years of counseling experience. A candidate should inquire with resume to Patti Claud at [pclaud@briarwood.org](mailto:pclaud@briarwood.org).

**Job Openings: Families, Youth, & College Administrative Assistant** — Candidate will support the Youth, College and Family Ministries through day-to-day administrative tasks. This is a full-time position with benefits. Send resumes to [jshaw@briarwood.org](mailto:jshaw@briarwood.org).

Stay up-to-date with events and opportunities with the Briarwood B-Mail newsletter.