

BRIARWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ADVENT  
SEED · SON · SERVANT · SAVIOR  
ADVENT

J E S U S , T H E S A V I O R

*Fear not, for behold, I bring you  
good news of great joy that will be  
for all the people. For unto you is born  
this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:10-11

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 21, 2025

## 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 98:1

Pastor: *Sing a new song to the LORD for He has done wonderful deeds.*

All: His right hand has won a mighty victory; His holy arm has shown His saving power!

## Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

*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.*

## Bell Choir Introit

*“Angel Songs”*

Briarwood Handbell Choir

## Invocation

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jonathan & Jackie Kalehoff family (8:00)

Jed & Kendall Duke family (11:00)

## Greeting of Grace & Peace\*

## Carols of Ascents\*

*“Joy to the World!” Carol 125*

*“What Child is This?” Carol 137*

## Confession of Truth\*

The Nicene Creed

Pastor: *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.

Pastor: *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.

Pastor: *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

*...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6*

#### Ministry Opportunities for Prayer

#### Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

#### THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! Psalm 100:1-2*

#### Presentation & Consecration of God's Tithe & Our Offerings

#### Musical Offering of Worship

*"O Holy Night"*

Hannah Darlington, Worship Associate

#### Worship Through Carols of Christmas\*

*"Angels We Have Heard on High" Carol 132*

*"Silent Night! Holy Night!" Carol 147*

#### THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness... II Timothy 3:16*

#### Prayer of Illumination\*

#### Scripture Reading\*†

Luke 2:1-21

#### Exposition of God's Word

Dr. Scott Redd, Pastor

*"Jesus, the Savior"*

Luke 2:1-21

#### THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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

#### Congregational Affirmation\*

*"The Doxology"*

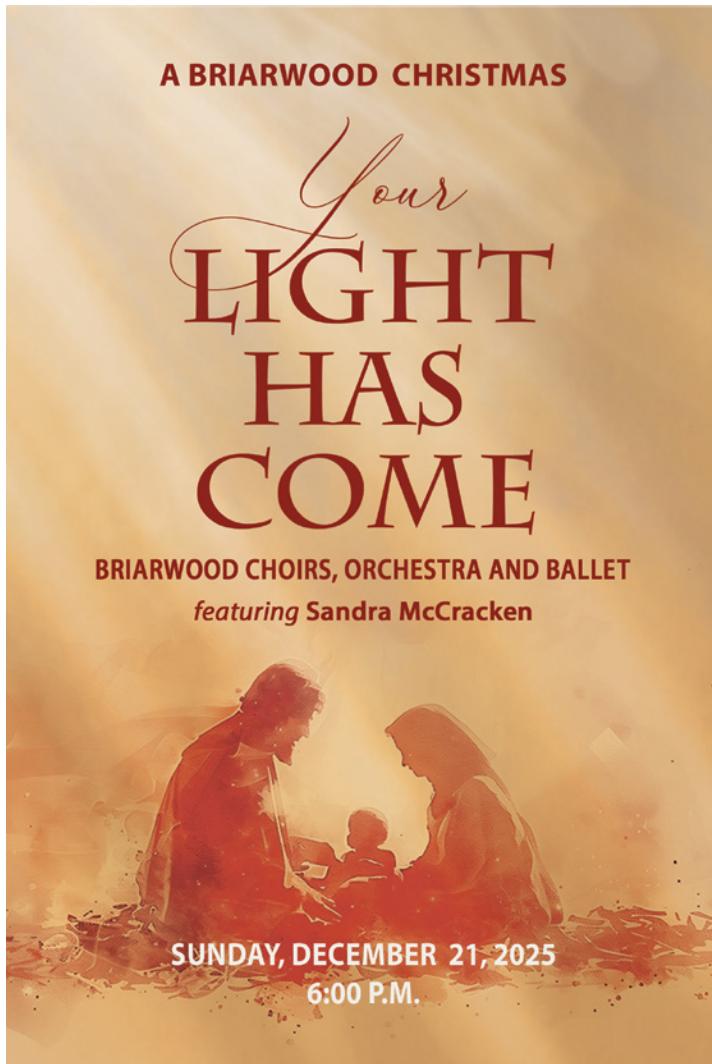
#### Pastoral Benediction\*

#### Postlude

# FELLOWSHIP OF WORSHIP

Briarwood Christmas Festival – 6:00 p.m.

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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.

A Prayer Team is available following both morning services just to the right of the pulpit platform.

The 8:00 a.m. service is "signed" each week in the Worship Center.

Morning services are available live on WLJR 88.5 FM. and online at [briarwood.org/livestream](http://briarwood.org/livestream).

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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** — Pray for this Sunday’s Evening Worship Service, “Your Light has Come”. We are thankful for those in the Sanctuary Choir, the Orchestra, and Ballet who use their gifts and talents to point us to Christ.

**Birmingham Prayer Focus** — Pray for the Life on Wheels ministry as they use mobile units in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa to provide ultrasounds, save babies, and share the Gospel. For more information or to get involved, visit [lifeonwheelsalabama.com](http://lifeonwheelsalabama.com).

**Missions Prayer Focus** — Pray for the Campus Outreach National Conference as college students from across the US Conference gather January 1–4 in Chattanooga, that every lost student would trust in Christ and every mature believer would commit to make disciples of all nations.

**Church Family** — Pray for our hospitalized members Sandy Bell, Cathe Cleveland, Owen Ponter.

Our love and sympathy to Emily Hayes and family on the death of her father, Wayne Culpepper, on December 11; to Emily Wiggins and family on the death of her sister, Neva Russell, on December 14; to the family of member Nick Padgett, who died on December 14; to Marilyn Mullis and family on the death of her brother, R. D. ‘Bobby’ Mitchell, on December 14; to Steve and Joshua Childree and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Betty Childree, on December 15; and to Dona and Lauren Markert, Hannah Ryals and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, June Royal, on December 16.

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

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

In accordance to the Book of Church Order the following men were elected by members of Briarwood on December 14, 2025 for the offices of elder and deacon.

**Elders** — (Class of 2028) Steve Adams, Billy Ball, David Battles, Phil Black, Bill Brazeal, Ernie Brown, Larry Childs, Joe Duffey, Steve Gathings, Ben Greene II, Stephen Hodges, Charlie Hoke, Chung-How Kau, Bob Ketchum, Andy McGehee, Bryant Moore, Wayne Pate, Tim Scott, Keith Silliman, Dale Sitton, Warren Smedley, Albert Smith, Scott Stewart, Scott Summers, Carl Wiggins.

**Deacons** — (Class of 2028) Hank Abbott, Tim Ayers, Bob Bellows, Stephen Bond, Jake Bonds, Sid Borland, Mike Bush Jr., Mike Bush Sr., Rob Butts, Max Campbell, Andrew Clark, David Clark, Carlos Crum, Brandon Darroch, Walker Davis, Eric Evans, Trey Fitzpatrick, Patrick Flynn, Ken Gables, Brian Handley, Neal Hatchett, Kevin Lindsay, John Livingston, Nick Maxey, Colin McCown, Nathan McIntosh, Bill Nabors, Alex Noble, Rob Palmer, Steven Peters, Reid Pickens, Kevin Plyler, Chadman Ponter, Will Ratcliffe, John Rollins, Robert Rutledge, John Salmon, Rex Snyder, Ethan Tidmore, Kevin Ulch, Doug Woodruff, Tony Wright (Class of 2027) Cabell Brockman, Ben Hamm, Ryan Valentino, Daniel White.

**Church & School Offices Holiday Closings** — December 24–26 for the Christmas Holiday. Church gates will open mid-morning on Saturday, December 27.

**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).

**Trailblazers Breakfast** — January 16 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall A. Learn what artificial intelligence really is, how it affects the world around us, and the simple practical ways it can support your daily life. Sign up [briarwood.org/trailblazers](http://briarwood.org/trailblazers).

**Men's Praying Breakfast** — Saturdays at 7:00 a.m. at the Mountain View Building. Please join us to pray for our church and the advancement of God's kingdom.

**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.

**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).

**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).

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