



# *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](http://BRIARWOOD.ORG)

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Morning Services of Divine Worship – January 4, 2025

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## Worship Leaders

Dr. Scott Redd, Pastor

Rev. Jay Shaw, Family Pastor

Dr. John Haines, Worship Pastor

## 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 45:17

All: I will cause Your Name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.

## Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession of Sin

*Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.*

## Invocation

## Gospel Word of Salvation

## Greeting of Grace & Peace\*

## Hymn of Ascents\*

*“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” Hymn 97*

## Confession of Truth\*

Philippians 3:7-11

Pastor: *But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*

All: For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

## 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

#### The Offertory

*"Rejoice"*

Shane Davis, Worship Associate

#### Singing of Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs\*

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

*"In Christ Alone"*

#### 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\*†

Hebrews 12:1-14

#### Exposition of God's Word

Rev. Rob Looper, National/Revitalization Pastor

*"Looking Forward; Running for the Joy Set Before Us"*

Hebrews 12:1-14

#### 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*

#### Pastoral Benediction\*

#### Congregational Affirmation\*

*"The Doxology with Alleluias"*

#### 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.

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.

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# FELLOWSHIP OF WORSHIP

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

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**Prelude**

*“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

Timothy Asbeck, pianist

**Welcome**

Rev. Eric Reebals

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 135:3

All: Praise the LORD for the LORD is good; sing praise to His Name for it is pleasant.

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Songs of Praise\***

*“His Mercy Is More”*

*“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”*

Connor Weide, Worship Associate

**Announcements**

**Offertory Prayer**

**The Offertory**

*“Sovereign Over Us”*

**Scripture & Sermon**

Rev. Jim Alexander, Pastor of Pastoral Care

*“Living in the Present”*

Philippians 2:5–11

**Congregational Affirmation\***

*“The Doxology”*

**Pastoral Benediction\***

**Postlude**

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## 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.

– Dr. Scott Redd & the Briarwood Church Family

## FEATURED EVENTS

### **MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | January 7–April 29 \***

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](http://briarwood.org/midweek).

### **Sanctity of Life Sunday — National Ministries | January 18**

Join us to celebrate the Sanctity of Life. Our Ministry Partners will be recognized in 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](http://briarwood.org/sanctity).

### **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).

### **Women's In-Town Retreat — Women's Ministry | February 6–7**

Ladies, join us for our In-town Retreat titled "The Church, The Bride of Christ." Fellowship together with fun, dessert, and giveaways on Friday night, then return Saturday morning for breakout sessions in the Fellowship Hall. Nursery is available on Friday evening with nursery registration and the Gym will be open for Fathers and children on Saturday. Register for \$45 per person at [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).

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

Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

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## PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

**Briarwood Prayer Focus** — Our purpose in life is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Pray that we, as a Church, will seek the Lord daily in His Word and in prayer in order to glorify Him in our lives. Pray that all we do and say would be according to His Word. "*Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your Name give glory.*" Psalm 115:1

**Birmingham Prayer Focus** — Pray for UnBound 2:16 as they offer transitional housing and vital support services, including case management, job training, job placement, and Biblical discipleship through committed volunteer mentors.

**Missions Prayer Focus** — Please pray for all of our campus ministry partners and their students participating in winter retreats. Pray that many will come to Christ or deepen their faith in a personal relationship with Jesus.

**Church Family** — Pray for our hospitalized members Sandy Bell, Jane Mann, Mary Anne Bradford, Al Black, Val Heise, Tammy Moore, and Peggy Townes.

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

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Women's Winter / Spring Studies** — Begins January 5. Ladies, join one of our six 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](http://briarwood.org/women).

**Men's Spring Studies** — Begins January 5. Mondays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Tuesdays at 11:45 at Cajun Seafood House, Thursdays at 6:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. See class topics, teachers, and additional information at [briarwood.org/men](http://briarwood.org/men).

**GriefShare MidWeek Class** — Beginning January 7. Wednesdays from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in W203. Begin your journey from mourning to joy. Join our 12-week program designed to offer comfort and encouragement. Call 205-776-5227 to sign up.

**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).

**Infant Baptism Class** — Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bride's Room. Jay Shaw 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 [lreese@briarwood.org](mailto:lreese@briarwood.org).

**Become a Briarwood Member** — January 21, 24, & 25. All newcomers and prospective members are invited to attend our Briarwood Inquirers Classes. Attending these classes does not obligate you to join. To sign up, email Wendy at [wlong@briarwood.org](mailto:wlong@briarwood.org).

**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.

**Friendship Partner Program** — Impact the nations by welcoming international students. Share a meal, introduce them to Birmingham, or take them out for coffee. It doesn't take much to begin a friendship that could have an eternal impact. Spring applications are due by January 30. Contact Courtney at [cmcggregor@briarwood.org](mailto:cmcggregor@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: Families, Youth, & College Administrative Assistant** — Candidate will support the Youth, College and Family Ministries through day-to-day administrative tasks, event coordination, communication, and office management. This is a full-time position with benefits. Please send resumes to [jshaw@briarwood.org](mailto:jshaw@briarwood.org).

**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](http://briarwood.org/employment).

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