



HOLY WEEK

A T B R I A R W O O D

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Services of Divine Worship • 8:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship • 6:00 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Communion Service • 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Service of Reflection on the Cross • 12:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Sunrise Service • 6:30 a.m.
Services of Celebration • 8:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Briarwood Music Staff & Professionals
in Concert • 6:00 p.m.

For more details at briarwood.org/easter.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DEVOTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY | The Royal Entry Into Jerusalem – Matthew 21:1–11

Royal entries are full of pomp and circumstance, not made on donkeys riding on pathways strewn with makeshift tokens of honor. But entry of the humble and gentle Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophetic prediction of Zechariah (9:9). Here we have Jesus offering the kingdom, and instead, the shallow, enthusiastic crowd ready to have Jesus give them what they want.

His next royal entry will be as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, implementing His eternal kingdom. Upon this entry, every knee shall bow and acknowledge His Lordship. Between them, we live in this marvelous age of grace so beautifully pictured on the cross, when the thief cries out to Jesus and we hear Him say, “Today you shall be with me in paradise.” Nowhere in Scripture is the grace of God displayed more clearly than on Calvary. The Perfect Man dies that the wretched man next to Him might be saved.

MONDAY | The Cursing of the Fig Tree – Matthew 21:18–19

The cursing of the fig tree is a strange event for several reasons. First, the story highlights the enigmatic nature of Christ. We observe His human and divine natures displayed in a common situation. In His human nature, He has expectations that the fig tree would have fruit to assuage His hunger. In His cursing of the tree, we observe His divine nature in the power to immediately effect the wilting of the tree. Second is the seeming insignificance of this event; why record it? And third, the apparent arbitrariness of Jesus’ action. What is the point of this incident at this time?

Obviously, the curse was not an act of punishing the tree. There is something far more significant and immediate in view. Matthew has just recorded the cleansing of the Temple where there was bustling religious activity without truth and righteousness. The cursing of the fig tree was a parabolic picture predicting the demise of an unfruitful Israel. While a religious tree filled with the leaves of prayers, sacrifices, rituals and leaders with letters in the law, Israel bore no fruit. Throughout Jesus’ ministry He cursed this barren fig tree, and was now about to “plant a mustard seed” that by faith would “turn the world upside down” within a generation.

TUESDAY | Jesus Anointed at Bethany – Matthew 26:6–13

Judas Iscariot was an intricate member of the twelve; in fact, he was their treasurer. For nearly three years he tramped dusty roads and endured the wrath of the Jewish leaders in hopes of riding the wave of Jesus’ ascendancy to power. He had heard Jesus’ previous references to His pending crucifixion, but the anointing by this dear lady with the expensive ointment, along with the commendation of her for His burial preparation triggered his disillusionment. Judas determined to cash out what he could by approaching the Jewish leaders to negotiate payment for his cooperation in their capturing Jesus. Matthew tells us that once that decision was made, Judas “from that moment...sought an opportunity to betray Him.”

How often contemporary Christians follow the pathway of Judas! They follow Jesus, sometimes for years, waiting for that which they have set their hearts upon. Sometimes it is business success, sometimes sexual satisfaction.

Read the full Devotions for Holy Week at briarwood.org/easter.

FEATURED EVENTS

Holy Week 2026 — Worship Services | March 29 – April 5 *

Remember the death and celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ with us during this year's Holy Week. We will have Worship Services on Palm Sunday (March 29), an evening Communion Service on Maundy Thursday (April 2), a Service of Reflection at noon on Good Friday (April 3), and a Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. and Worship Services on Easter Sunday (April 5). Find details at briarwood.org/events.

IMPACT Birmingham — Church Mobilization | April 25 *

On the morning of April 25, we will partner with local ministries to do service and repair projects, ranging from yard work and painting to distributing food. This will be an opportunity to serve together as the body of Christ and IMPACT Birmingham for Christ! Find additional information and register for projects at briarwood.org/impact.

* Nursery is available for select events upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

The Man on the Middle Cross: Are You Going to Heaven?

by Alistair Begg | Easter Pulpit Recommendation

A powerful, short evangelistic book based on Alistair Begg's most quoted sermon line introduces three people who had their lives changed when they met Jesus. Each was given hope, restoration and a way back to God: the woman at the well, the paralyzed man, and the thief on the cross. With characteristic clarity, Alistair Begg explains how this offer is open to all who come to Jesus, the man on the middle cross. Price: \$3.00 (includes tax)

Is Easter Unbelievable?:

Four Questions Everyone Should Ask About the Resurrection Story

by Rebecca McLaughlin | Easter Pulpit Recommendation

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is an extraordinary thing to believe. Such a supernatural event is the stuff of make-believe, many think. Yet millions of Christians around the world believe that Jesus' resurrection was a real, historical event. Indeed, "if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith," and Christians are "of all people most to be pitied" (1 Corinthians 15). In this concise book, respected apologist Rebecca McLaughlin outlines the evidence that Jesus really did rise from the dead and why it's the best news ever. Price: \$3.00 (includes tax)

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.,
Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Saturday: Closed, Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Featured books are available in the Bookstore or online at briarwood.org/bookstore.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Faith Promise Update — As of the end of March, \$3,211,194.98 has been pledged to our Global Missions Faith Promise Fund, exceeding our Hallelujah goal of \$2,911,546 by \$299,648.98. Thank you to everyone who participated in this Faith Promise season!

Easter Lily Dedication — Sunday, March 22 ordering deadline. Purchase a lily to be placed in the Worship Center in memory or honor of someone special for Easter Sunday. Order now online at briarwood.org/easter or call Patti at 776-5282.

DRT Sheds of Hope Build Days — March 23–25. Help Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church construct sheds that will be delivered to a disaster site affected by a hurricane, fire, tornado, or flood. Learn more and register at briarwood.org/events.

Children on Palm Sunday — March 29. Our Holy Week celebration begins with a palm branch procession as we remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. K4–6th graders meet in the Worship Center Lobby 15 minutes before each service.

MidWeek at Briarwood — There will be no MidWeek dinners or classes on March 25 or April 1 for Spring Break and Holy Week. MidWeek resumes April 8 and concludes on April 29. Find information and register for dinners at briarwood.org/midweek.

Easter Gifts for Inmates — Partnering with UnBound216, we will collect hygiene items and snacks for inmates at Bibb County Correctional Facility. Donations can be dropped off in the Missions Office. For a list of accepted items, email cbono@briarwood.org.

Men's Spring Studies — 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 additional information at briarwood.org/men.

VBS 2026 — Mark your calendar and plan to attend this summer June 1–5! Registration and teen helper sign-ups will begin in April. To volunteer, go to briarwood.org/vbs. Email Raleigh Macoy at rmacoy@briarwood.org if you have any questions.

Family Ministry Administrative Assistant — Role supports the Family Pastor, G&C, and Children's Ministries and requires a broad understanding of family ministry and a proactive approach to administrative support. Send resume to jshaw@briarwood.org.

Nursery Hallway Supervisor — Briarwood is looking to hire a Briarwood member to supervise the nursery hallway during Sunday evening services and during some special church events. Send resume to aneugent@briarwood.org.

Women Business Leaders, Director — This role will focus on leading and managing the ministry of Women Business Leaders, focused on reaching working women within the Birmingham area. Send resume to rgenin@briarwood.org.

Full-time & Part-time Staff — There are a number of ministry positions open. See all employment and job openings at briarwood.org/employment.

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

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Sunday, March 22 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Give thanks for the opportunity to serve our community on April 25 through IMPACT Birmingham. May the Lord lead us to take part in one of these projects with our supported ministries. Pray that we will minister to many as we IMPACT Birmingham for Christ.

Monday, March 23 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Pray for the Aspire Movement as they connect students with mentors committed to Life-on-Life influence. Ask for wisdom for mentors as they guide students to grow in leadership and faith in Jesus. Also prayerfully consider volunteering at Aspire on April 25 for IMPACT Birmingham.

Tuesday, March 24 — Missions Prayer Focus

Join in prayer this week for Life on Wheels. The organization is a state licensed mobile, medical clinic using ultrasound to serve women, save babies and share Jesus. Their goal is to serve abortion vulnerable women, provide alternatives to abortion, seek community resources, and provide support after the child is born. The flag of Birmingham will be featured in the Worship Center this Sunday.

Wednesday, March 25 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Tamas and Zsofia Heizer with Novo in Hungary, Sam and Karla with Avant Ministries in Spain, Paul and Crystal Henry with Mission to the World in New Zealand, and Jeff and Angie with Charstar in South Asia.

Thursday, March 26 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Jeff and Ann Nelson with Children's Bible Mission in Alabama, Doug and Pam Nuenke with Navigators in Colorado, Shane and Vickie O'Hara with Team 5:18 in Louisiana, and Phil and Amy Pippenger with Crossroads in East Tennessee.

Friday, March 27 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for Briarwood Elders Jim Blackmon, David Harris, Tom Rivers; deacons Bob Bellows, Jeff Hester, Chase Roberson; and Women's Director Kristie Harrick.

Saturday, March 28 — Church Family

Pray for hospitalized members Frank Barker III, Sandy Bell, Ric Cull, Bill Feist, and Curtis Terry.

Our love and sympathy to Shea Terry and family on the death of her father, Curtis Larry Summerlin, on March 10; to Julia, Huston and Kathleen Shirley and family on the loss of their stepfather and step grandfather, Rex McCrary, on March 11; to Ann Clarke and family on the death of her father, Guy Kaylor, on March 14; to the family of member Roberta Guthrie on her death on March 15; and to Kelly and Nathan Little and family on the death of their brother-in-law and uncle, Jamie Pugh, on March 15.

We rejoice with Jim and Katherine McPhail on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth James, on March 11; and with Shane and Jessica Davis on the birth of their daughter, Bethany Hill, on March 14, and with grandparents Duane and Nancy Pritchett and Matt and Michele Davis.

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

Briarwood Presbyterian Church
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, AL 35243-2923



THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

Deuteronomy: Wholehearted Love

“The Lord Alone”

Deuteronomy 4:32–43

Dr. Scott Redd

Sunday Evening Worship:

“The Apostle, Some Exorcists, and a Book Burning”

Acts 19:8–20

Shelby Myers, Pastoral Intern

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook, YouTube or briarwood.org.
Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.