



MEANING OF THE CROSSES

Three Crosses have been placed in front of the church with appropriate draping on the Christ cross.

The Purple Drape, leading up to Good Friday, represents the royalty of Christ.

The Black Drape, used on Good Friday and Saturday, represents the death and burial of Christ.

The White Drape of Easter Sunday will declare the triumph of the resurrected Lord.

The White Drape and the Crosses will remain in place until Ascension Sunday, marking the end of Christ's 40-day post-resurrection ministry.

Download a copy of the full Holy Week Devotional at briarwood.org/easter.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DEVOTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

WEDNESDAY | 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. Sometimes it is popularity or some other worldly desire. Then, one day, they realize that Jesus is not attending to their agenda, and they make the decision to betray Him.

Jesus and Judas are the two most important figures of Passion Week. Jesus represents the love of God "...in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). Judas represents our flesh that would rise up in rebellion and betray this very Christ who died for us. Dear reader, cling to Jesus! Die to self! Avoid becoming a Judas.

MAUNDY THURSDAY | Jesus Prays in Gethsemane – Matthew 26:36–46

Scripture tells us that Jesus learned obedience (Heb 5:8). The story of Gethsemane displays this emphatically. The human mind cannot comprehend the agony and the ecstasy of this event. But this very conundrum is the point which ministers to us. The agony of Jesus as He anticipates bearing the sin of the world, and in the process experiencing separation from His Father, is depicted for us in that "...His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). The ecstasy is captured in His words, "Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done" (Luke 22:42). In this, He learned obedience. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way, "...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross..." (Heb. 12:2).

There are many lessons to be drawn from Jesus' Gethsemane experience. These may include the value of prayer in crisis, the lack of commitment by the disciples in their tendency to sleep even when asked to pray, and the legitimacy of repeating the same prayer when wrestling with God. However, the most important lesson is, like Jesus, to learn obedience. There is no place like prayer to wrestle our soul into submission. And so Jesus, having learned obedience through His own prayer, rouses His disciples from sleep and calls them to "... pray that you may not enter into temptation" (26:41).

Sincere prayer is the pathway to ecstasy in the Christian life, and the full utilization of the armor of God against the temptations of life (Eph. 6:18). During Passion Week, join Jesus in the agony of learning obedience through prayer—and the ecstasy of submission to your Father's will.

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 Final Days of Jesus:

The Most Important Week of the Most Important Person Who Ever Lived

by Andreas J. Kostenberger & Justin Taylor | Adult Holy Week Book

On March 29, AD 33, Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem and boldly predicted that He would soon be put to death. So began the most important week of the most important person who ever lived. Nearly 2,000 years later, the events that took place during Jesus' last days still reverberate through the ages. Designed as a day-by-day guide to Passion Week, *The Final Days of Jesus* leads us to reexamine and meditate on the history-making, earth-shaking significance of Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, and empty tomb. Combining a chronological arrangement of the Gospel accounts with insightful commentary, charts, and maps, this book will help you better understand what actually happened all those years ago—and why it matters today. Price: \$16.99

That Holy Week So Long Ago: The Seven Days that Led to Easter

by Matthew Boswell | Children's Holy Week Book

While sharing the Easter story with children, it's easy to rush from the pain of Good Friday to the victory of the empty tomb. But each day leading up to Jesus' resurrection holds special meaning. On the road to the cross, the Savior taught, prayed, and fulfilled many Old Testament promises. Retelling these stories through 10 poems for kids, Matthew Boswell displays the beauty of Holy Week day by day. This illustrated book includes short rhymes about Holy Week, with individual poems dedicated to Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Spy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Resurrection Sunday. Descriptive and memorable, each retelling helps children picture the timeline of the Easter story. They will love reading and reciting this fun book as they learn more about Jesus' life, ministry, and sacrifice. Price: \$12.99

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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 April 1 for Holy Week. MidWeek resumes April 8 and concludes on April 29. Find information and register for dinners at briarwood.org/midweek.

Communion Service — Thursday, April 2. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the Maundy Thursday service. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

Church and School Offices Closed — Friday, April 3 in observance of Good Friday.

Become a Briarwood Member — April 15, 18 and 19. All newcomers and prospective members are invited to attend our Briarwood Inquirers' Class. Attending does not obligate you to join. To sign up, call 205-776-5208 or email wlong@briarwood.org.

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.

Mission Trip Needs — Christian Medical Ministry is collecting donations of ibuprofen 200mg, anti-fungal cream, Tylenol 500mg, and 1% hydrocortisone cream for mission trips to the Dominican Republic. Contact CMMA with questions at 205-776-5470.

Briarwood Audio / Video Team — Worship God and serve in the church by contributing your talents to the Sunday AV Team. Tasks include running worship slides, operating livestream cameras, and more. If you are interested, email lmckee@briarwood.org.

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 rngenin@briarwood.org.

Part-time Receptionist Substitute — If interested, email bscruggs@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 29 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

As we celebrate Palm Sunday, let us lift up prayers of gratitude for Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to fulfill Zechariah's prophecy at the beginning of this Holy Week. As the children come down the aisle waving their palm branches, let us be filled with humble adoration for King Jesus, who defeated sin and death on our behalf.

Monday, March 30 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Pray for NorthStar Soccer Ministries as they serve urban youth in Birmingham. Their Christ-centered soccer programs mentor and empower young people through leagues, camps, tutoring, and Bible studies. Also prayerfully consider volunteering at NorthStar on April 25 for IMPACT Birmingham.

Tuesday, March 31 — Missions Prayer Focus

Pray as we prepare for the upcoming IMPACT Birmingham outreach on April 25, when Briarwood Church will partner with local ministries to serve together as the body of Christ. Pray that hearts will be moved to join our ministry partners in sharing the love of Christ throughout Birmingham. The flag of Birmingham will be featured in the Worship Center this Sunday.

Wednesday, April 1 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Don and Teri Horsley with Navigators in Central Asia, Jill Howard with Mission to the World in Asia, Clay and Merrell Hubbard with Campus Outreach SERVE in Australia, and John and Melody Hunt with Campus Outreach SERVE to Internationals.

Thursday, April 2 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Jose and Anna Portillo with Vive Charlotte Church in North Carolina, Neil and Leandra Quinn with Good Shepherd Church in Michigan, Paul and Peggy Reynoso with Navigators in California, and Brandon and Katrina Robbins with Birmingham Theological Seminary in Alabama.

Friday, April 3 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for our Briarwood Elders Jim Bradford, Carter Harsh, Nathan Sasse; deacons Roger Bittinger, Nick Hill, Doug Robertson; and Special Connections Director Michael Johnson and his wife Amanda.

Saturday, April 4 — Church Family

Pray for hospitalized members Sandy Bell, Ray Bronner, Jean Goebel, Betty Hull, Betty Minderhout Curtis Terry, and Jim Bragan.

Our love and sympathy to Elaine Kennedy and family on the death of her husband, member Allan Kennedy, on March 11; to April Jeff and family on the death of her mother, Rene Carver, on March 18; and to Stephanie Brackeen and family on the loss of her father, Steven Meyers, on March 22.

We rejoice with Andrew and Rebecca Golden on the birth of their son, Archie Golden, on March 18.

Receive each day's prayer as a notification through the Briarwood App.

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



THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

Deuteronomy: Wholehearted Love

“The Prelude”

Deuteronomy 4:44–5:6

Dr. Scott Redd

Sunday Evening Worship:

Mark: The Words of Eternal Life

“The Unforgivable Thing”

Mark 3:22–30

Dr. Scott Redd

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