



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

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Morning Services of Divine Worship – Sunday, November 26, 2023

Worship Leaders

Mr. Bruce Stallings, Executive Pastor
Dr. John Haines, Worship Pastor

Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist
Rev. Daniel Cason, Pianist

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people,
and praise Him in the assembly of the elders. Psalm 107:32*

Call to Worship & Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 30:12

All: O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever!

Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

"Bless This House"
Hunter Goff

As the prophets of old cried out among Your people who were weary and downcast, yearning for the coming Promised Messiah, so today Your call rings out through the proclamation of Your Word, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" Oh Lord, speak to my heart during this season of grace as You spoke to Your prophets and saints. Allow me to fix my gaze upon Christ, Redeemer and Savior of His people, and to relive the joy of His blessed Advent.

Invocation

Gospel Word of Salvation

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Hymns of Thanksgiving*

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" Hymn 559
"For the Beauty of the Earth" Hymn 560
"We Gather Together" Hymn 561

The Confession of Truth*

The Apostles' Creed

Leader: *Christian, what do you believe?*

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Universal

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice... Psalm 5:3

Ministry Opportunities for Prayer

Pastoral Prayer of Intercession

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" Revelation 5:13b

Presentation & Consecration of God's Tithe & Our Offerings

Musical Offering of Worship

"This Is My Father's World"

Sanctuary Choir and Instrumentalists

Singing of Psalms, Hymns, & Spiritual Songs

"Come, People of the Risen King"

"O Great God"

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God... Ephesians 6:17

Prayer of Illumination*

New Testament Reading*†

Ephesians 6:18–20

Exposition of God's Word

Bobby Parks

"Pray for Me"

Ephesians 6:18–20

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. II Corinthians 13:14

Pastoral Benediction*

Congregational Affirmation*

"Now Thank We All Our God" Hymn 556

Postlude

"Now Thank We All Our God"

*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 also "signed" each week in the Worship Center.

Sunday morning services are broadcast live on WLJR 88.5 FM.

The 8:00 and 10:55 a.m. services are available online at briarwood.org/livestream.

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Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version.

FELLOWSHIP OF WORSHIP

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

Prelude	<i>“What Child Is This?”</i> Ethan and Rose Davis
Welcome	Benny Parks
Call to Worship	Psalm 69:30
All:	I will praise the Name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving.
Prayer of Invocation	
Songs of Praise*	<i>“Come Thou Fount”</i> <i>“Be Thou My Vision”</i> Luke Hollis, High School Worship Intern & Pastor John Haines
Announcements	
Offertory Prayer	
Offertory	<i>“Lord, I Need You”</i> Luke Hollis
Scripture & Sermon	Olan Stubbs VIII. Philippians <i>Rejoicing in the Advancement of the Gospel</i> <i>“Content in All Circumstances”</i> Philippians 4:10–20
The Ordination and Installation of Stephen Merwin & Joel Richards	
Benediction*	
Doxology*	John Haines
Postlude	

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.

– The Briarwood Church Family

FEATURED EVENTS

“A Joyful Noel” — Children’s Christmas Choirs | December 3 *

Come Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center to hear the Children’s Choirs of Briarwood as they bless us and begin our Christmas season!

Walk Through Nativity — Church Wide Event | December 6, 7 and 8

December 6, 7 and 8 from 6:45–8:45 p.m. Over 750 volunteer actors, costumers, parking attendants, scene-builders, and greeters are needed for this year’s Walk Through! Sign up online at briarwood.org/nativity or call 205-776-5282.

“O Come Let Us Adore Him” — Briarwood Ballet | December 10 *

Join the Briarwood Ballet on December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center as they lead us in worship this Advent season. Go to briarwood.org/ballet.

“Hallelujah! The Light Has Come” — Briarwood Christmas Festival | December 17 *

Come experience Advent through musical and dramatic presentation from the Briarwood Choirs, Orchestra and Dramatists with special guest Sandra McCracken. This event is completely free and open to the public.

Christmas Eve Services — Worship Services | December 24 *

Reflect the birth of Jesus with us this Christmas Eve. Sunday morning we will have one combined Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. with no Sunday School Communities meeting. Bring your family and friends back Sunday evening for Candlelight Family Services at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. or our Candlelight Communion Service at 11:00 p.m.

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

PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Briarwood and Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for the many details remaining for the Walk Through Nativity. Pray for the health of those serving and for the additional volunteers needed. Pray for the Grace House staff and leadership as they undergo “The Growing in Grace” Campaign that will enable the ministry to serve more girls in foster care, continuing Mama Lois’ vision. Pray that the girls in this ministry would come to know Jesus as their Father and healer as they navigate through previous trauma. (The flag of Birmingham is featured in today’s worship service.)

Hospitalized — Allison Brown, Carolyn Campbell, Richard Gallo, Charles Gipson, Betty Minderhout, Jeffie Rae Thompson, Charlie Cutcliffe, Ric Cull

We rejoice — with Thomas and Rose Garner on the birth of their daughter, Maret Claire, on November 15; and with Carson and Abby Haley on the birth of their daughter, Frances ‘Francie’ Ann, on November 16.

Our love and sympathy — to Brock Cochran and family on the death of his father, David Cochran, on November 14; and to Sherri Blahnik and family on the death of her father, Roger Smith, on November 18.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Interim Pastor — Welcome Dr. Dan Doriani as our new Interim Pastor. We look forward to hearing him preach next Sunday, December 3. Please pray for Dan and his wife, Debbie, as they join us in serving the Lord at Briarwood.

Christmas Poinsettias — On sale until December 3. Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone this Advent season. Dedications are \$20 each, available for purchase in the Membership Office or online at briarwood.org/poinsettia.

Officer Selection Sunday — December 3. Members will be asked to select officers during a called meeting of the congregation that begins at 8:00 a.m. and officially closes with the benediction of the 10:55 a.m. service. The men receiving the most votes will then be placed on a final slate that will be presented for election the following Sunday.

2024 Budget — Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m. in A105. Members of the Budget Committee will be available to answer questions regarding the 2024 Budget.

Officer Election Sunday — December 10. Men receiving the most votes from Officer Selection Sunday will be placed on a final slate that will be presented for the church membership to elect. There will also be a special order at 10:35 a.m. in the Worship Center to receive the 2024 budget.

Canned Food Drive — Sunday, December 10. Begin gathering your canned goods and non-perishables for Oak Mountain Mission. That Sunday, you will leave your donations behind your vehicle for the Mercy Ministry Team to pick up while you are in church.

Trailblazers Christmas Sing-A-Long — Tuesday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m. Meet us at Cahaba Ridge Retirement Community to sing familiar Christmas songs with Hunter Goff. Sign up at briarwood.org/trailblazers or sjohnston@briarwood.org.

Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed — January 18–21, 2024. Briarwood is hosting the upcoming conference where pastors and leaders from across the country come for teaching, encouragement, and fellowship. We need volunteers for housing, transportation and preparing attendee notebooks and goody bags. If you can help in any of these ways, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org or 776-5243.

Our Season of Prayer Meetings — Sundays at 5:15 p.m. in A-105. Our Church Family gathers weekly to pray together as we seek the Lord to lead us during this intermediate phase. Email pclaud@briarwood.org with any questions.

Ignite Sunday School Volunteers Needed — Volunteer helpers and teachers are needed for 4th–6th grade boys' Sunday School. This position serves January through May on a month-on, month-off basis. No prep is needed. If interested, email esitarz@briarwood.org.

Job Opening: ESL and Friendship Partner Director — Part-time position open for the leader of our English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministry. For more information or to send your resume, email Heather McDougall at hmcdougall@briarwood.org.