



— A THRILL OF —
HOPE

THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Sunday, December 24, 2023

Worship Leaders

Dr. Dan Doriani, Interim Pastor

Mr. Bruce Stallings, Executive 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,
and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:25*

Call to Worship & Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 24:7-8

Leader: *Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

All: Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!

Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

Briarwood Bell Choir

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.

Musical Introit

“Noel”

Hannah Brennan, soloist

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle & Reading

Gus and Felicity Martin

Greeting of Grace & Peace*

Carol of Ascents*

“Joy to the World” Carol 125

The Confession of Truth*

The Nicene Creed

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

The Briarwood Choir

Season of Worship through Carols of Christmas

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" Carol 128

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" Carol 133

"Away in a Manger" Carol 158

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*

New Testament Reading*†

James 1:17 & Matthew 7:7-11

Exposition of God's Word

Dr. Phil Tuttle

"The Ultimate Christmas Gift"

James 1:17 & Matthew 7:7-11

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living
sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1*

Carol of Praise*

"The First Noel" Carol 136

Pastoral Benediction*

Postlude

"Gloria"

*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

Candlelight Celebration Services: 5:00, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

CANDLELIGHT
COMMUNION SERVICE
11:00 p.m.



Candlelight Celebration Services:

“Mary Christmas”

Luke 10:38–42 & Luke 2:8–20

Bruce Stallings

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.

Watch our live-stream for the 5:00 p.m. service
on the Briarwood App, Facebook, YouTube or briarwood.org/livestream.

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

MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | January 10–April 24 *

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.

Lampstand Birmingham Conference — Church Revitalization | January 18–21

You are invited to attend The Lampstand Conference, a conference on Church Health and Revitalization, hosted here at Briarwood. If you want to help with this conference, email cbono@briarwood.org. Find additional details at briarwood.org/lampstand.

Women's In-Town Retreat — Women's Ministry | January 26–27

Ladies, join us for an In-town Retreat hosted here at Briarwood the weekend of January 26–27. This year's theme will be "By Design" and our keynote speaker will be Courtney Denton, Director of Mercy and Women's Ministries at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Registration is \$45 per person and will open on December 20 at briarwood.org/women.

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

PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray we will draw closer to our Savior in the upcoming New Year. Pray for those traveling over the holiday to be safe, and may the Lord provide opportunities for them to share Jesus.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for church planter Byron West in Dripping Springs, Texas, and All Souls Presbyterian Church. Pray that God will continue to supply their every need and surprise them with abundant grace. They are asking for God to send an additional 10 families to join the work by Easter.

Hospitalized – Denis Devane, Richard Gallo, Charles Gipson, Bart Kidd, Betty Hull, Kendall Reaves, Buddy Runnels, Mike Taylor, Ken Wilson

Our love and sympathy – to the family of member Phyllis Walton on her death on December 14; to Jill Wood and family on the death of her brother, Chuck Clark, on December 11; to Walter, Julia, and Sam Weingarten and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Gene Weingarten, on December 15; to John, Adrienne, and Drew Goolsby and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Sandra Goolsby, on December 17; to Jackie Morris and family on the death of her father, Jack McCutchen, on December 17; to Cindy Sproul and family on the death of her mother, Francis Martin, on December 18.

email: info@briarwood.org — website: briarwood.org
2200 Briarwood Way — Birmingham, Alabama 35243 — 205-776-5200

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Year-End Giving — The Accounting Office will close at 5:00 p.m. on December 29 for the year. Contributions received in the mail must be postmarked or canceled by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2023. Contributions with January 2024 postmarks will be considered 2024 contributions.

Securities Stewardship — When giving gifts of securities, please notify Matt Moore at the time of your gift so that your contribution may be processed accurately and efficiently. Contact Matt at 205-776-5205 or kbvice@briarwood.org.

PCA Offering — Special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews tonight. Through the Ministerial Relief Fund, the Christmas Offering provides monthly, supplemental income to our retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows and dependent children who have low income and meet the Relief Fund guidelines. More information at briarwood.org/pcaoffering.

Church and School Offices Closed — Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for Christmas; then again Monday, January 2 for the New Year holiday.

Church Gate Schedule — Today the gates will close following the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. The gates will close again on January 1.

BTS Intensive Classes — Christ and Culture Class: January 4–6 and Systematics VI (Eschatology) Class: January 11–13. Birmingham Theological Seminary is offering members a condensed course on either Christ in the current culture or Systematic Theology. Cost: \$80 (audit) or \$200 (credit). To register email emily@bts.education.

Volunteer for Lampstand Conference — Help needed for Briarwood's Lampstand Conference in January with housing or transportation for those attending. We also need volunteers to put together attendee notebooks and goody bags! If you want to help, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org.

Trailblazer Travel: Florida — March 11–15. Come travel with friends to Amelia Island, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville. We'll go on guided tours, visit a plantation, and cruise the St. Johns River. Five days and four nights includes breakfast and dinner for \$679. Go to briarwood.org/trailblazers or email sjohnston@briarwood.org.

Summer Camp Employment — Camp Briarwood counselor applications are now available at campbriarwood.org.

Job Openings: Briarwood Receptionist — Morning Receptionist (part-time, Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.); and Afternoon Receptionist (part-time, Monday–Friday, 12:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.). Briarwood membership required. For inquiries and application, email kbvice@briarwood.org.

Job Openings: YBL Financial Administrator — Part-time position for 15 hours per week. Individual needed to maintain accounts payable/receivable, and manage donor support and information. Applicant needs experience with database systems as well as proficiency in Word and Excel. Send resume to Rob Genin at rgenin@ybl.org.