

Service of Celebration for the Life and Ministry of
Harry Lloyd Reeder III



Briarwood Presbyterian Church
May 24, 2023

Romans 8:1
There is therefore now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Harry Lloyd Reeder III

February 16, 1948 – May 18, 2023

*Harry is survived by his loving wife of 54 years
Cindy Miller Reeder*

*His sister
Beth Reeder Thomas (Robert)*

*His three children
Jennifer Toomer Hay (Philip), Harry Lloyd Reeder IV (Angie), and Abigail Reeder Leib (Ryan)*

*His grandchildren
Brianna, CJ, Mack, Kathryn Barrett and Anna Grace (Toomer Hay), Virginia and Win Turpin (Reeder)
and Matthias, Taylor, and Mitchell Elizabeth (Leib), along with beloved nieces and nephews.*

Harry was born on February 16, 1948, in Charlotte, North Carolina, and was a graduate of East Mecklenburg High School. He surrendered his life to Christ and experienced a call to ministry which led to him to attend and graduate Covenant College with a degree in theology and history. After graduation, Harry pastored a reformed Baptist church in Lookout Valley. He moved into the Presbyterian Church in America in 1980 at Pinelands Presbyterian Church in Miami, Florida. After seeing a work of revitalization at Pinelands, Harry was called to plant Christ Covenant Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he served for seventeen years, seeing God grow the congregation from thirty-four core members to over 3,000 by his departure in 1999. During this time, Harry graduated from Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia (Master of Divinity), and Reformed Theological Seminary (Doctor of Ministry).

Harry became the Pastor-teacher at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in 1999, following in the footsteps of his lifelong mentor and friend, Dr. Frank Barker. Harry's profound sermons, saturated with Biblical Truth and practical application, inspired and transformed innumerable lives. Harry also founded the church revitalization conference ministry (now The Lampstand), helping countless churches grow in Biblical church health for over 30 years.

Harry served on numerous boards, councils, and committees, including but not limited to serving as a board member of Westminster Theological Seminary, a board member and faculty at Birmingham Theological Seminary, a Council member of the Gospel Reformation Network, and a speaker for Ligonier Ministries.

Harry will be remembered for his genuine love for others, his infectious laughter, his booming voice, and his unwavering commitment to God's Word. He had a remarkable ability to connect with people from all walks of life, offering comfort, guidance, and hope during their darkest moments. He was known around the world for his ability to take complex theological topics and make them understandable and applicable to everyone.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Harry Reeder Scholarship Fund at Birmingham Theological Seminary, the Harry Reeder Memorial Fund at the National Christian Foundation, or Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia.

Harry would leave all with this message:

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)

Order of Worship

The Prelude		Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist
The Processional		
Honorary Pallbearers	<i>"Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus"</i>	Briarwood Choir and Orchestra
Family	<i>"Amazing Grace"</i>	Mr. Thomas Caucutt, Piper
The Call to Worship and Invocation		Rev. Jim Alexander
The Hymn of Praise	<i>"Behold Our God"</i>	Dr. John Haines
The Scripture Reading		Dr. Jon Payne
The Family Remembrance		
The Scripture Reading and Remembrance		Mr. Bruce Stallings
The Hymn of Hope	<i>"For All the Saints"</i>	Dr. John Haines
The Ministry of the Word		Dr. Sandy Willson
	<i>"The Shepherd and His Flock"</i> 1 Peter 5:1–11	
The Hymn of Victory	<i>"A Mighty Fortress"</i>	Dr. John Haines
The Benediction		Dr. Sandy Willson
The Amen	<i>"Amen"</i> from <i>The Messiah</i>	Briarwood Choir and Orchestra
The Recessional		
Family	<i>"Highland Cathedral"</i>	Thomas Caucutt, Piper
Honorary Pallbearers	<i>"Highland Cathedral"</i>	Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist
Postlude		Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist

Pallbearers Jim Alexander, Matt Moore, Benny Parks
Bruce Stallings, Bryan Wintersteen, Benny Youngblood

Honorary Pallbearers The Briarwood Presbyterian Church Elders

Honorary Pallbearers in Absentia The Elders of Christ Covenant Church in Charlotte, NC
The Elders of Pinelands Presbyterian Church in Miami, FL

In February, 2017, Dr. Reeder was facing open heart surgery. It afforded him the opportunity to preach a sermon before going into a major operation. The family encourages you to listen to or read this sermon.

Here are his closing remarks (edited for print) from the sermon "A Pastor's Word from God's Word."

By God's grace I hope this is not my final word unless He decrees otherwise but my final word about this is very simple. It doesn't matter whether it's 68 years or 88 years I am a blessed man. I am saved by grace. I have a Savior who has sought me and bought me and brought me. He gave me a wife that is incomparable. He gave me children that are astonishing and astounding in their love for Christ and how He has gifted them to serve Him. He has given me grandchildren that I have been able to enjoy and anticipate what God is going to do in and through them. He has given me a family with wonderful sisters and brothers-in-law who love Jesus. He has given me an extended family beyond those that is absolutely extraordinary. More than that, He has given me life forever and Jesus Christ.

He has also given to me the enormous privilege to pastor this congregation...You have been a wonderfully patient congregation as God continues to work in me even as you wait for Him to work through me in your life. I am grateful for your patience and your graciousness. I am overwhelmed by it. I am utterly astounded by it, not because of you but because I am unworthy of it. I am grateful for it. For to have experienced the love of the brethren is so humbling.

I remember 18 years ago when Frank Barker was receiving some of those things from you as he passed the mantle onto me and I have been blessed by your encouragement. What you gave him you have given to me and it was probably a greater challenge to give it to me than it was to him! We have some of the greatest elders in this church for you are a blessed congregation. None of us are perfect but these elders and their love for Christ, for His church, for the Great Commission, for the Great Commandment and their desire to grow in grace and lead you as shepherds and overseers, is absolutely amazing.

One of the reasons I know I can go meet the Lord is because of the maturity of this congregation that is reaching into the lives of the new believers to encourage them and the amazing gifts of leadership that are here among our elders and deacons. You are in the Lord's hands but He has given you some good hands to serve you with these men of God. Then we have an astonishingly faithful and effective pastoral staff from an executive pastor that constantly amazes me with his wisdom and energy all the way down to a senior staff and all the way down to 34 men and women who serve you with a whole heart. They are not hirelings—for they lay down their life for the sheep. They love doing what they do. They are growing in what they are doing and I can't tell you what a great blessing it is to know that you are in the hands of God with elders, deacons and a pastoral staff that loves the Lord and His people. That is an absolute personal blessing that is beyond my ability to describe it because it humbles me so much to be a part of it and to see it.

Finally, it is simple for me. My sins are forgiven. I have a new record. I have a new heart. I don't know what He is going to find in my physical heart but I've already told Him I have a new one. I have a new home. I'll have a new body. That new home is astounding. Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has prepared for those who love Him. So whether it is here or it's there I'll see you, for Christ has promised and we often sing "In Christ Alone."

***No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.***

Amen.