



*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 – March 23, 2025

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## Worship Leaders

Dr. Dan Doriani, Interim Senior Pastor

Mr. Hunter Goff, Organist

Dr. John Haines, Worship Pastor

Rev. Daniel Cason, Pianist

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Gather the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words... Deuteronomy 4:10*

## Call to Worship & Preparation from the Psalms

Psalm 37:4–6

Pastor: *Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

All: Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

## Prelude & Time of Meditation & Confession

*“O Worship the King”*

Briarwood Orchestra

*Gracious Heavenly Father, we acknowledge this day that You are the Giver of every good and perfect gift, and the Sustainer of our lives. We humbly come before You, recognizing the presence of sin in our hearts, and knowing that You have graciously given Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the price and bear the penalty for our sin. We confess our sin before You now, and gratefully accept Your full and complete pardon. Free us to worship You now in Spirit and Truth, with joy and celebration, and tune our hearts and fit our lives to live to the praise of Your glory and the advancement of Your Kingdom.*

## Invocation

## Gospel Word of Salvation

## Greeting of Grace & Peace\*

## Hymn of Ascents\*

*“Immortal, Invisible”* Hymn 25

## The Confession of Truth\*

Deuteronomy 28:1–3, 9

Pastor: *If you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.*

All: And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. The LORD will establish you as a people holy to Himself, as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.

Pastor: *The Word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God!

THE PETITIONING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

*...I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings  
be made for all people... I Timothy 2:1*

**Ministry Opportunities for Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer of Intercession**

THE ADORATION OF GOD'S GLORY

*Praise the LORD! It is good to sing praises to our God... Psalm 147:1a*

**Presentation & Consecration of God's Tithes & Our Offerings**

**Offertory**

*"Rejoice in God"*

Briarwood Choir & Orchestra

**Singing of Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs\***

*"Christ Is Mine Forevermore"*

*"Lord, I Need You"*

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\***

**The New Testament Reading\*†**

Matthew 5:1-12

**Exposition of God's Word**

Rev. Jim Alexander, Pastoral Care Pastor

*"The Blessings of the Kingdom"*

Matthew 5:1-12

THE CONSECRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*And now I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace... Acts 20:32a*

**Congregational Affirmation\***

*"The Doxology with Alleluias"*

**Pastoral Benediction\***

**Postlude**

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\*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](http://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.

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## Prelude

*“In Christ Alone”*  
Ava Huynh, pianist

## Welcome

Dr. Greg Norfleet, Director of Counseling Ministry

## Call to Worship

Psalm 116:1–2

All: I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.  
Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

## Prayer of Invocation

## Songs of Praise\*

*“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*  
*“Forever Jesus”*  
*“Our Great God”*  
Shane Davis, Worship Associate

## Announcements

## Offertory Prayer

## Offertory

*“Ancient of Days”*

## Scripture & Sermon

Rev. Saeyoung Park, Singles Pastor

*“Love and Hate”*  
1 Samuel 18–20

## Doxology\*

Dr. John Haines, Worship Pastor

## Benediction\*

## Postlude

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## 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

### **Holy Week 2025 — Worship Services | April 13–20 \***

Remember the death and celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ with us during Holy Week. We will have Worship Services on Palm Sunday (April 13), an evening Communion Service on Maundy Thursday (April 17), a Service of Reflection at noon on Good Friday (April 18), and on Easter Sunday (April 20), a Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. and Worship Services. Find details at [briarwood.org/holyweek](http://briarwood.org/holyweek).

### **IMPACT Birmingham — Church Mobilization | April 26 \***

On the morning of April 26, we will have the opportunity to work together on a wide range of service projects that will help support several of our local ministries. This will be a great time to serve as the body of Christ and IMPACT Birmingham for the glory of God! Find additional information and register for projects at [briarwood.org/impact](http://briarwood.org/impact).

### **Seek First the King in Marriage — Couples Marriage Retreat | May 2–4**

Come invest in your marriage and enjoy a weekend away together in beautiful downtown Huntsville! We will have three sessions with Dr. Doriani, a married couples panel discussion, and Sunday morning worship. Find additional information and register online by April 2 at [briarwood.org/marriageretreat](http://briarwood.org/marriageretreat).

\* Nursery is available for select events upon reservation at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).  
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

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## PRAYERS & CHURCH FAMILY

**Briarwood Prayer Focus** — Pray as we magnify the Lord and exalt His name together in worship today. May He bless the preaching of His Word from Pastors Jim Alexander and Saeyoung Park. As the Pulpit Search Committee waits expectantly on Him, may He give them strength and courage (Psalm 31:24).

**Missions Prayer Focus** — Pray for the launch of Love Life Ministries' new "Reach Her First" campaign. Pro-life teams will go onto college campuses to share about resources available amid a crisis pregnancy. Prayer walks are held every 2nd Saturday to raise awareness. Pray for the gospel impact as well as the growth of this campaign.

**Hospitalized** — Carolyn Campbell, Gene Head, Marvin Keffer, Barbara Matthews, Mildred Risner, Sarah Frances Wilson, Bruce Dorough, Dale Keller, Jennifer Bentley

**We rejoice** — with Jonathan and Morgan Neely on the birth of their son, Jonathan 'Jon' Curtis IV, on March 12, grandparents Andy and Charisse Graves, and great-grandparents Bunk and Jan Graves; and with Brandon and Anne Marie Runnels on the birth of their son, Garrison Robert, on March 14 and grandparents Jim and Michelle Gewin.

**Our love and sympathy** — to John Lathram and family on the death of his wife, member Jean Lathram, on March 18.

email: [info@briarwood.org](mailto:info@briarwood.org) — website: [briarwood.org](http://briarwood.org)  
2200 Briarwood Way — Birmingham, Alabama 35243 — 205-776-5200

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Faith Promise Pledges** — Turn in your Faith Promise card by March 30 during a worship service, mail your card to Briarwood, email [faithpromise@briarwood.org](mailto:faithpromise@briarwood.org) with your commitment, or fill out the form at [briarwood.org/faithpromise](http://briarwood.org/faithpromise).

**Holy Week Reading Recommendation** — *Is Easter Unbelievable?* by Rebecca McLaughlin considers the historical evidence of the first Easter and shows why the resurrection story might be more believable than you think. This \$3 book, available in the Bookstore, is a must-read in preparation for Easter and a great gift for friends and neighbors.

**Campus Security Update** — Construction is scheduled to be completed in the coming weeks on a security fence around the Briarwood Christian Lower School. This will not interfere with regular church activity or access. Learn more at [briarwood.org/fence](http://briarwood.org/fence).

**Unbound 216 Easter Hygiene Packs** — March 23–30. Briarwood is partnering to deliver hygiene kits to prison inmates as an Easter gift. Bring new deodorant sticks (no sprays) to the Chapel hallway or Ministry Lobby by March 30.

**Congregational Meeting** — Sunday, March 30 at 12:00 p.m. The Session has called a Congregational meeting for the purpose of calling Teaching Elder Benny Youngblood as an Associate Pastor.

**Officer Nominations** — April 1–30. Deacon and Elder nominations for the Class of 2028 will be accepted from the congregation during the month of April. Make your nominations online at [briarwood.org/nominations](http://briarwood.org/nominations) or email [lreese@briarwood.org](mailto:lreese@briarwood.org).

**Children's Passport Night** — Friday, April 4 from 6:00–8:30 p.m. K4–6th graders, come and learn about the country of Egypt through food and fun! Parent volunteers are needed. Register online at [briarwood.org/passport](http://briarwood.org/passport) by April 3 at noon.

**Easter Lily Dedication** — Sunday, April 6 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/lily](http://briarwood.org/lily) or drop by the Membership Office (A101).

**CMMA Human Trafficking Seminar** — Thursday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Healthcare providers are invited to hear from an expert in the field how to identify victims of human trafficking. Register at [cmmaub.org/ministry-activities](http://cmmaub.org/ministry-activities).

**VBS 2025** — June 2–6. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Raleigh Macoy at [rmacoy@briarwood.org](mailto:rmacoy@briarwood.org). Nursery volunteers are also needed to serve as classroom shepherds! Contact Sarah at [ssewart@briarwood.org](mailto:ssewart@briarwood.org) or 776-5214.

**Job Openings: Nursery Admin. Supervisor** — Part-time position to support the Director with day-to-day needs, interact with parents, and to help manage staff. Contact Sarah Stewart at [ssewart@briarwood.org](mailto:ssewart@briarwood.org) or 205-776-5214 for more information.

**Job Openings: Full-time & Part-time Staff** — There are a number of ministry positions open. See all employment and job openings at [briarwood.org/employment](http://briarwood.org/employment).

**Worship Flowers** — The flowers in the Worship Center are given to the glory of God from the wedding of Hannah Brennan and Micah Darlington on Saturday, March 22.