

**Briarwood Presbyterian Church
Morning Worship 10:25 a.m.
December 5, 2021
Liturgical Color: Purple**



— SECOND SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

*Putting **God** first
Keeping **Christ's** Commands
Caring for People's Needs within the Church
and the **Community***

THE GATHERING

*Worshippers are invited to stand, if able. +Usher will seat you.
Please remember to turn off your cell phone while in the sanctuary.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Charles Bowdler
We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in
the worship, programs and service life of Briarwood Presbyterian
Church.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

*Use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here.
Relax your body, quiet the inner dialogue of your mind, open yourself
to the Spirit of God moving in our midst, and prepare to worship God
joyfully with the body of Christ gathered here today.*

VOLUNTARY *Carillon on "Puer Nobis"* DOUGLAS WAGNER

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*(Representing Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team, Susan
Bostwick, Nell Bradford, and Lea Ann McElroy lead us in the lighting
of the Advent candles.)*

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

People: **Advent means coming.**

Leader: We are preparing ourselves for the day when the wolf shall
dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf
and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

(Light candles)

People: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Let us pray.

Unison: **God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways
of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Keep**

our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near; your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]*

*7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone what we ought to have done, and we have done what we ought not to have done. Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us: restore us, according to your

promises declared to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. And grant, merciful Father, for Jesus' sake, that we may live a godly, righteous, and obedient life, to the glory of your holy name.

(Silence for Private Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

THE WORD

+YOUNG DISCIPLES TIME

MUSIC

Angels Singing, Bells Are Ringing

WAGNER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be unto God

SERMON

“Valley of Dry Bones”

Rev. Bowdler

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles Creed

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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***HYMN 96 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* WINCHESTER NEW**

*1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.*

*3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.*

*4 Stretch forth your hand; our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver

us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING

*HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

*2 For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth.*

*3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.*

*No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.*

*4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE *Overture from "Unto Us a Child Is Born* BACH/RITTER

PRAYER & CARE CONCERNS

(Names in **bold** indicate new concerns)

Members Nora Brunson, **Mary Carlisle**, Joy Clemmer, Vance Clemmer, **Donnie Cole**, Hope Conerly, Lisa Davis, **George Forkin**, Dean Gerber, Noel Guthrie, Hugh Hogue, Jeanne Hulsman, Vicki Jensen, Mary Kirby, **Marcia Magee**, **Pat Ray**, Marian Sessums, Paul & Crea Shelton, Betty Simmons, **Susan Sumrall**, Jerry and **Martie Taylor**, Kathy Van Tassell, **Myra Wheaton**

Family & Friends **Tiara Amos** (Kathy Van Tassell's friend), Jeremy Ansah, Lenny Barnhill (Diane Hall's brother-in-law), Terry Black (friend of Bob & Diane Hall), Cal Bowdler (Charles' nephew), Larry Coleman, Loretta Coleman (Larry & Louis' sister), **Kathy Miller Evans** (Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller's sister), Margaret Ann Forester, Jeannie Jenkins (Bill Dillon's daughter), **Greg Koziel**, Dennis Lightsey (Malcolm's brother), **Joe Martin**, Taaji Moore (Josie Moore's son), Grace & Amos O'Gwynn, James Paul (Suzanne Stephens' brother), Norman Rowsey (Ella Edwards' son-in-law), **Sarah Schobesberger** (Lisa & Werner's daughter), Sandra Smith, William (Bill) Smith

Missions Lisa & Werner Schobesberger, Austria; Mission Hope

Military Grace Foster, Matt Jasinski, Kevin Jameson, Jordan Saunders

USHERS THIS MONTH

Carol Alexander – David French – Debra Kinser –
Mara Kirby – Paula Shelton

Elders this week: Warren Dorsey & Jim Jackson
Elders next week: Hugh Hogue & Doris Schneider
Flower Team this week: All Teams
Flower Team next week: Tommie Cole
Videographer this week: Dan Duggan
Videographer next week: Mark Bailey

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, December 5, *Second Sunday of Advent*

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice, Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:25 a.m. Worship in person or Live on Facebook
- 11:45 a.m. PWCT Meeting, Heritage Room

MONDAY, December 6

- 9:30 a.m. Explorers Bible Study, Adult Library
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational Care Committee, Adult Library (hybrid meeting)
- 5:30 p.m. Explorers Bible Study, Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY, December 8

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

THURSDAY, December 9

- 7:30 a.m. Prayer for Jackson, Highland Village
- 11:00 a.m. Devotion, via GoToMeeting
- 1:30 p.m. Rachel Circle, Audie Dodson's house

SUNDAY, December 12, *Third Sunday of Advent, Capital Brass*

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice, Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:25 a.m. Worship in person or Live on Facebook
- 11:45 a.m. Naomi Circle, Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Party, Dodsons' house

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS: Following the worship service each week, Elders meet to receive new members in the church office located on the southwest side, behind the sanctuary. We welcome everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and who desires to be an active part of our family of faith.

ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKS: There is an assortment of Advent devotion books on the piano in the Sanctuary.

CAPITOL BRASS: We look forward to having Capitol Brass join our worship Sunday, December 12 for our annual Christmas music service. Make plans to attend, and invite friends and neighbors too!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Please see the bulletin insert for information about memorials and honoraria to the Poinsettia Fund.

LIZZIE'S ANGEL TREE: This Christmas, we will again help Lizzie Cooper provide for the many needy children in the inner city of Jackson. The boys and girls in her flock are in need of NEW underwear (boys and girls), socks, knit caps, and gloves. The children range in age from 5-12, all with room to grow! Bring your UNWRAPPED gifts to the church no later than Sunday, December 19.

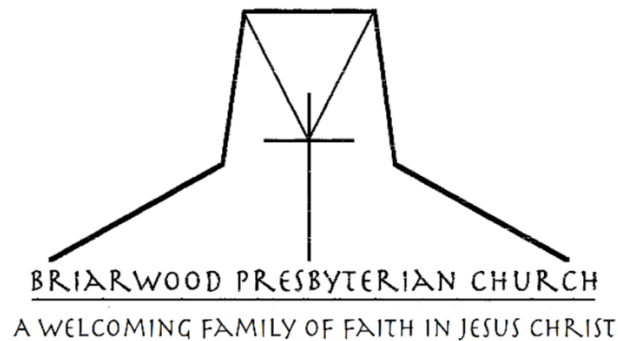
STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUSES: Members of the congregation are invited, if they desire to do so, to contribute to the staff bonus pool. The bonus gifts will be divided between the 1 full-time staff and 6 part-time staff. When giving to this project, please mark your check "staff bonus" and turn in to the church office by Sunday, December 19.

SESSION

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Dan Duggan	Susan Bostwick	Warren Dorsey
Corinne Fox	Joy Lightsey	Anne Dreher
David French	Tracee Thompson	Jim Jackson
Hugh Hogue	Joanne White	Doris Schneider

STAFF

Senior Pastor	Charles Bowdler	601.497.0006
Church Secretary	Lea Ann McElroy	601.750.5124
Choir Director	Barney McCann	601.750.0441
Organist	Charlyne Jones	910.322.6345
Custodian	Louis Coleman	601-826-7455
Financial Assistant	Brenda Hyde	601.212.7421
Child Care	Josie Moore	601-955-9503
Clerk of Session	Dan Duggan	601-260-1161
Treasurer	Monty Dodson	601-919-0406
Children's Ministry	Susan Sumrall	601-946-5858



Briarwood Presbyterian Church
620 Briarwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
601.956.4553
briarwoodchurch620@gmail.com
www.briarwoodpres.org

Follow us on facebook: @briarwoodpres