

**Briarwood Presbyterian Church
Morning Worship 10:25 a.m.
November 28, 2021
Liturgical Color: Purple**



— FIRST 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 *Vom Himmel Hoch* ZACHAU, REGER
(From Heaven Above to Earth I Come)

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*(Our two newest members – Josie Moore and Roxie Winham – lead
us in the lighting of the Advent wreath.)*

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 nations
shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning
hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they
learn war anymore. *(Light candle)*

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

Let us pray.

Unison: **Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all
generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert**

watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*HYMN 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

*1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

*2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. At times, we have failed to be an obedient church. We have not always done your will; sometimes we have broken your law; we have resisted your love. We have not always loved our neighbors, and we have even stopped our ears to the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silence for Private Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

THE WORD

+YOUNG DISCIPLES TIME

MUSIC

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Traditional Carol

arr JAMEY RAY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles in Babylon

29 These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD.

¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be unto God

SERMON "Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles" 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 362 *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers* LLANGLOFFAN

*1 Rejoice! Rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing*

*and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
and soon he will draw nigh.
Up, watch with expectation;
at midnight comes the cry.*

*2 See that your lamps are burning;
replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation,
the end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand;
arise, O heirs of glory;
the Bridegroom is at hand!*

*3 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for,
above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption,
and ever be with thee!*

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 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

1 *Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.*

2 *Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

3 *Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE *Isaiah, Mighty Seer, in Days of Old* ZACHOW

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

Elders this week: David French & Joy Lightsey

Elders next week: Warren Dorsey & Jim Jackson

Flower Team this week: Dawn Pearson & Suzanne Stephens

Flower Team next week: All Teams

Videographer this week: Kathy Van Tassell

Videographer next week: Dan Duggan

USHERS THIS MONTH

Susan Bostwick – Myra Cook – Suzan Dorsey –
Warren Dorsey – Hugh Hogue

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, November 28, *First Sunday of Advent*

2 ϕ -A-Meal Sunday

- 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

MONDAY, November 29

- 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

TUESDAY, November 30, *Giving Tuesday*

WEDNESDAY, December 1

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

THURSDAY, December 2

- 7:30 a.m. Prayer for Jackson, Highland Village
- 11:00 a.m. Devotion, via GoToMeeting

FRIDAY, December 3

- 7:30 a.m. First Friday Free Coffee

SATURDAY, December 4

- 8:30 a.m. Hanging of the Greens

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

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.

2¢-A-MEAL OFFERING: Today we place our two cents per meal offerings in the buckets to share God's blessings with others. Please place your offering in the buckets located near the offering plates at the rear of the Sanctuary.

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

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Saturday, December 4, beginning at 8:30 a.m., we will be hanging the greens and getting our church ready for Advent and the Christmas season. Many hands are needed, including men's! We will have coffee and Jane Gerber's delicious cinnamon rolls to get us started. Whether you can stay all morning or just a while, your help is needed and appreciated!

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!

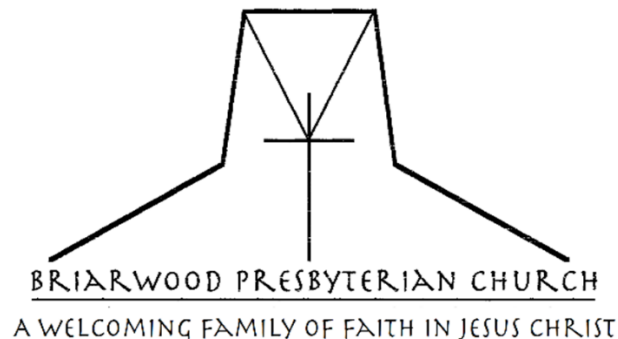
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Please see the bulletin insert for information about memorials and honoraria to the Poinsettia Fund.

SESSION

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



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