



To all who are weary and need rest ...
To all who mourn and long for comfort ...
To all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares ...
To all who struggle and desire strength ...
To all who sin and need a Savior ...
We do, too.

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our great Hope and Joy, the reason we gather to celebrate and worship. Southwood opens wide our doors, our hearts, and our lives as our God has done for us.

December 3, 2023

8:45 AM Prayer Gathering

9:30 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Connect Hour

Worship Service

We contemplate who God is and who we are as we gather to worship.

MEDITATION

“A low view of law always brings legalism in religion. A high view of law makes a man a seeker after grace.”

J. Gresham Machen, *What Is Faith?*

God welcomes us into his presence and reorients our hearts to Him and each other.

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.

PEOPLE: *On the willows there we hung up our lyres.*

LEADER: For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

PEOPLE: *How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

LEADER: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

ALL: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Psalm 137:1-4, Isaiah 7:14

We express the worth of our God and the emotions of our hearts to Him.

SONG

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Helping Lead Today's Worship Service

- Will Spink Senior Pastor
- Bill Harritt Associate Pastor
- Derrick Harris Associate Pastor
- Roth Family Advent Reading
- Kelli Johnson Announcements
- DJ Baptiste Director, Music Ministry
- Newt Johnson Piano
- Tim Adcock Organ
- Nick Walker Bass Guitar
- Ron Poteat Electric Guitar
- Wesley Chambers Violin
- Michael Athey Drums
- Lyndsay Abel Vocals
- Jarrett Kaempfer Audio
- Leslie Ellis Livestream
- Jonathan Ellis Slides

Worship Service

God reminds us from his Word of his promises to his waiting people centuries ago.

ADVENT SCRIPTURE READING

“Thus says the Lord: In this place of which you say, ‘It is a waste without man or beast,’ in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man or inhabitant or beast, there shall be heard again the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord: “Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!’ ... In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

Jeremiah 33:10-16

PRAYER OF LONGING AND ANTICIPATION

SONG

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

We place the sign of God’s promises on those who place their hope in Jesus.

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

BAPTISMS

Elliot Cooper
Sophia Corbin

SONG

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

We celebrate how God’s grace flows through us in our relationships and community.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SONG

“O, Little Town of Bethlehem”

Parents may escort K-1st graders upstairs during offertory.

Worship Service

God speaks to us from the Bible explained and applied to our lives.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

Matthew 5:17-20
"Fulfillment"

God invites us to taste and see his goodness in the bread and cup that represent the body and blood of Jesus for us.

LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is the family meal of Christians. We invite all those who trust in Jesus and are baptized members in good standing of any church that preaches the good news of Jesus to partake in the meal with us. Children not yet received as members themselves or others not partaking today are encouraged to observe and/or ask an elder to pray with you after the service.
** Gluten-free bread is available in center front and back.
* Grape juice is in clear cups in the outer ring of each tray, while wine is in purple cups in the inner rings.*

SONG OF RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

God sends us on his mission with his blessing.

BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26



Following the Worship Service

Pastor Will will greet and pray with people at the front of the sanctuary.

Join us for Connect Hour, relating with God and each other around his Word.

Adults: Gather in rooms on hallway across from the Nursery

High-Life Connects: Jr./Sr. High classes in the Lodge across the street

Kids Connect: Birth-5th grade classes in Nursery and upstairs

Sermon Notes

Introduction: Perfect Recipe, Imperfect Chef

Why Christmas? Jesus came for FULFILLMENT of the Old Testament.

1. Jesus fulfills all the _____.

2. Jesus fulfills all the _____.

- He raises (not lowers) the bar.

- He clears (not avoids) the bar.

- He lifts us to (not around) the bar.

Conclusion: Perfect Recipe, Perfect Chef

Grace Group Questions *(for fuller discussion guide, visit southwood.org)*

1. Read Matthew 5:21-48. In what way is Jesus clearly “raising the bar” to fulfill the law? How might you explain the command “do not steal” in the same way?

2. What is one specific area you are thankful for having Jesus’ perfect active righteousness credited to you?

3. How do you see Jesus working righteousness in you by his Word and Spirit, and where do you long and pray to see it more?

Announcements

Hark the Herald Southwood Sings!

Join us next Sunday night, December 10, at 6:00pm for our annual musical Christmas celebration for the whole church family. Help by sharing your favorite family Christmas pictures for a video for that night. Drop off pictures at the church office between 9am-5pm, Monday-Thursday, or email digital pictures to worship@southwood.org.

Day of Prayer / Prayer Gathering

This Wednesday, December 6, is our monthly Day of Prayer for our relationships with our neighbors. Pray wherever you are or join us at noon in the Prayer Room to pray together.

Adult Connect Communities

For today's and next Sunday's Adult Connect Communities, Southwood elders will be sharing their own Stories of Grace in the adult Connect Community classes. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about your church leadership and hear how God is working in their lives. On December 17, all adults will gather in the Connecting Spaces for a casual Christmas celebration. Plan to bring a favorite Christmas treat to share.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

On Christmas Eve, our regular worship service with Children's Moment begins at 9:30am. That evening, our traditional candlelight service with the Lord's Supper is at 6:00pm. Nursery is provided at both services.

This Week @ Southwood

Sunday, December 3

6:00am – Men's Fellowship
8:45am – Prayer Gathering
9:30am – Worship Service
11:00am – Connect Hour
7:00pm – Sr. High-Life

Wednesday, December 6

12:00pm – Day of Prayer/Gathering
3:30pm – Bible Study at Fleming Farms
6:00pm – Jr. High-Life
6:00pm – Kids Club
6:00pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm – Children's Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 7

10:00am – Women's Bible Study

Join us in pursuing God's mission together by becoming part of a smaller community through Grace Groups. Sign up anytime at southwood.org/grace-groups.

Deacon/Finance Update

2023 Budget

\$2,555,912

Weekly Budget Need

\$49,152

Last Week's Giving

\$59,743

Year to Date Giving

\$1,709,318



Scan this QR code to give electronically.

Learn more, see full event calendars, and give electronically at southwood.org.

Prayer Guide

Core Commitment

We seek the restoration of all creation in Huntsville and beyond.

Ask that God would give each of us a renewed vision of how our ordinary daily tasks are a part of his grand story of redemption and restoration.

Pray for our local mission partners as they have additional opportunities to minister to those in material need during the holiday season.

Ask for God to work renewal in our city - that it would be marked by peace, justice, and love for neighbors in every neighborhood.

Specific Needs

Pray for Laura Wolfson as she recovers from heart valve replacement and prepares for another procedure next week.

Pray for Vicki Richardson as she began daily radiation treatments for her breast cancer on Thursday.

Pray for Michael and Sara House as they added two young foster children to their family this week.

Thank God for his faithfulness to the PCA as we celebrate 50 years as a denomination this week.

Pray for Joey Powers in the death of his father this week.

Pray for Southside Presbyterian Church plant as they enjoy another preview service this Sunday.

Missions Partner Requests

Second Mile Development

Second Mile Development serves alongside Huntsville's Terry Heights and Hillandale neighbors. This ministry supports and encourages parents through initiatives like Pride for Parents and Santa's Secret Shop. Remember to pray for them this week!

Praise God with us for opportunities to teach our preschool students about thankfulness during November.

Pray that we will have an ample supply of toys for Santa's Secret Shop throughout the month of December.

Ask that God would use our new parenting curriculum to impact many families in this community.

Senior Member

Sandy Newby

2816 Briarwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801

Expectant Mothers

Libby Potts — December 2023

Beth Patton — February 2024

Lauren Taylor — May 2024

**Email prayer@southwood.org
to be included in this Prayer Guide.**

Southwood's Mission

Southwood exists to experience and express grace in relationships that impact eternity.

Southwood's Core Commitments

We are committed to being Christ-centered.

We recognize our deep dependence and need for prayer.

We are driven by relationships.

We strive to love the least, the lost, the littlest, the lonely, and the left-out.

We seek the restoration of all creation in Huntsville and beyond.

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southwood.org



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to let us know you're
here.

Experience & Express
Grace