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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.

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**December 1, 2024**

**8:45 AM** Prayer Gathering

**9:30 AM** Worship Service

**11:00 AM** No Connect Hour

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# Worship Service

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

## MEDITATION

“They had heard about this Promised Child and now he was here. Heaven’s Son. The Maker of the Stars. A baby sleeping in his mother’s arms. This baby would be like that bright star shining in the sky that night. A Light to light up the whole world. Chasing away the darkness. Helping people to see. And the darker the night got, the brighter the star would shine.”

Sally Lloyd-Jones  
*The Jesus Storybook Bible*

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**LEADER:** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

**PEOPLE:** *Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

**LEADER:** Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

*ALL: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

Psalm 100

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

## SONGS

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

### Helping Lead Today’s Worship Service

- **Will Spink** Senior Pastor
- **Derrick Harris** Associate Pastor
- **Burns & Allison Accardi** Advent Reading
- **Elisabeth Enchelmayer** Announcements
- **DJ Baptiste** Director, Music Ministry
- **Newt Johnson** Piano
- **Nick Walker** Bass Guitar
- **Ron Poteat** Electric Guitar
- **Michael Athey** Drums
- **Lyndsay Abel** Vocals
- **Kim Watkins** Vocals
- **Jarrett Kaempfer** Audio
- **Leslie Ellis** Livestream
- **Jonathan Ellis** Slides

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# Worship Service

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

## ADVENT SCRIPTURE READING

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

## PRAYER

### SONG

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

We talk honestly with our Father about our weakness, idolatry, and need for Him.

## SILENT CONFESSION

God reminds us of his grace and forgiveness as the foundation of our relationship.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:5-9

### SONG

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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# Worship Service

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

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERTORY SONG

"Light of the World"

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

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

### PREACHING OF THE WORD

Isaiah 9:1-7

"Light in the Darkness"

### SONG OF RESPONSE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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 next Sunday, December 8.

**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

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# Sermon Notes

**Introduction:** Christmas Lights and the Light of the World

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the World

2. The Story of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the World

**Conclusion:** The Light Will Shine Again!

**Grace Group Questions** *(for fuller discussion guide, visit [southwood.org](http://southwood.org))*

1. Where do you feel darkness most pressing on you recently? Consider your sin, your suffering, and the reality of death.

2. What aspect of who Jesus is and is promised to be in Isaiah 9 is most needful and comforting for you? How could his light shine into your darkness?

3. In what ways are you tempted to find light in yourself or your own resources rather than in desperately longing for light to shine from outside into your darkness? How can someone pray for you in that struggle?

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# Announcements

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## Connect Hour

No Connect Hour today due to holiday weekend.

Connect Hour resumes next Sunday, December 8, for all ages.

## Hark the Herald Southwood Sings!

Invite friends and join us at 6pm next Sunday, December 8, for this musical Christmas celebration for the whole family.

## Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Families with young children (nursery to PreK4) are invited to our Happy Birthday Jesus party Saturday, December 7, 10am to 11am, near the fireplace in the Connecting Spaces. We'll enjoy a very special storytime, kid-friendly crafts, festive songs, and light snacks. Friends and older siblings welcome! RSVP by Dec 3 to [rosemary.spooner@southwood.org](mailto:rosemary.spooner@southwood.org).

## Christmas Eve Worship Service

Join us on Christmas Eve at 6pm for our traditional candlelight service with the Lord's Supper. Nursery provided.

## Express Grace Conference

Save the date for our annual Express Grace Conference, January 25-26. Details coming soon.

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## This Week @ Southwood

### Sunday, December 1

8:45am – Prayer Gathering

9:30am – Worship Service

11:00am – No Connect Hour (all ages)

7:00pm – Sr. High-Life

### Tuesday, December 3

5:30pm – Admin Comm Meeting

### Wednesday, December 4

3:30pm – Bible Study@Fleming Farms

6:00pm – Kids Club

6:00pm – Jr. High-Life

*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](http://southwood.org/grace-groups).*

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## Deacon/Finance Update

*Quarterly Budget Need is based on Southwood's historical giving patterns.*

Oct-Dec Budget Need: \$1,117,132

Quarterly Giving To Date: \$358,692

## Last Week's Giving

\$34,884



Scan this QR code to give electronically.

**Learn more, see full event calendars, and give electronically at [southwood.org](http://southwood.org).**

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# Prayer Guide

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## Core Commitments

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

Pray that family relationships across our community will be reconciled and restored during this holiday season.

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 light overcoming darkness.

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

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## Specific Needs

Pray that God would work hearts of gratitude in each of us as we consider his faithful presence in our lives, no matter the circumstances.

Pray for our children through the holiday season to grasp the wonder and glory of the incarnation of our Savior amidst the joyful celebrations.

Pray for marriages and families in our community feeling strained by the expectations of the holiday season.

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## Missions Partner Requests

**Alex & Suzanne Sarran in Lyon, France**

*The Sarrans have been involved in full-time ministry since 2001, the year they were married. Alex pastors The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Lyon, France, where Suzanne helps lead the women's ministry and choir. The church is an important source of Gospel teaching in a spiritually dark city. You can support the Sarrans by praying for these requests.*

Praise God with us for the 16 guests who attended a recent welcome lunch for newcomers.

Please be praying for our two interns and their families who are discovering the joys and challenges of full time ministry.

Pray for our upcoming outreach event at an outdoor market; our choir will sing and we will hand out invitations for our Christmas service.

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## Senior Member

**Elaine Looney**

4670 Bellewood Dr. SE, Apt 229  
Huntsville, AL 35802

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## Expectant Mothers

**Sarah Riley** — Feb 2025

**Lydia Moore** — Feb 2025

**Amy Dobrowansky** — May 2025

**Email [prayer@southwood.org](mailto:prayer@southwood.org)  
to be included in this Prayer Guide.**

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### **Southwood's Mission**

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

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### **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](http://southwood.org)



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here.

Experience & Express  
*Grace*