



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 13, 2020
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

“Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent ... The door is shut and can only be opened from the outside.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We remember together the longing and hope with which God’s people waited for the promised King as we await his eternal reign.

ADVENT SCRIPTURE

Collin Whitt

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 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 33:14-16

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ron Clegg
Associate Pastor

LEADER: You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

PEOPLE: “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”

LEADER: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

ALL: “Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Isaiah 12:1-6

We consider it a joy to have multiple generations worship together.

A Nursing Mothers’ Room is also at the back of the sanctuary.

Ushers can provide you a hearing assistance device if helpful.

Worship Service

We express
God's worth and
our emotions.

SONG

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

We talk honestly
with God about
our weakness,
brokenness, and
idolatry.

CONFESSION OF SIN

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

Isaiah 30:15-17

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

Isaiah 30:18

SONG

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

God places
the sign of
his covenant
promises on the
child of parents
trusting in Him.

BAPTISM

Dakota Edward Stevens

Son of Austin and Kristen Stevens

SONG

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SONG

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Giving boxes are located in the rear of the Sanctuary.

Worship Service

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

God speaks to us through the Bible as it is explained and applied to us.

PREACHING OF THE WORD

Will Spink
Senior Pastor

Zechariah 2
"Joy in His Coming"

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

SONG OF RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

God sends us on his mission with his blessing.

BENEDICTION

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

II Corinthians 13:14



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 the Connecting Spaces

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

Kids Connect: Birth-6th grade classes in Nursery and upstairs

Announcements

Welcome, Visitors!

We are delighted you have joined us for worship this morning and love the chance to get to know new people. If you would send any contact information you would like us to use to worship@southwood.org, we will reach out to you this week.

Adult Connect Hour - TODAY

Join us today at 11am in the Connecting Spaces as the Committee on Emotional Health discusses how to manage emotions while dealing with the stress of the holidays and all the unprecedented events of 2020.

Christmas Eve

We are planning two ways to celebrate Christmas Eve this year. View the recorded, online service at southwood.org/live at 6:30pm, "Merry Christmas from Our Fireplace to Yours," including many elements of our traditional service. For those who would like to gather in person, we will have a shorter service outdoors and (mostly) unplugged at 4:30pm on our outdoor stage, featuring Christmas carols and a message (bring your own light source for "Silent Night"!).

Fa La Lodge

Fa La Lodge is moving outdoors this year so that more members of our church family and community can enjoy this Christmas show safely! The musical extravaganza will be Sunday, December 20, 6:00pm, at the Stovehouse Stage. No tickets are required, but blankets and chairs are recommended.

2021 Southwood Devotional Book

Pick up your family's free copy of *New Morning Mercies* today. This devotional book by Paul Tripp is also available electronically, if you prefer. We will be reading it together as a church family throughout next year, so please join us.

This Week @ Southwood Sunday, December 13

11:00am — Connect Hour (All Ages)

Deacon/Finance Update

2020 Budget

\$2,448,739

Weekly Budget Need

\$47,091

Last Week's Giving

\$93,520

Year to Date Giving

\$1,887,517

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates to your favorite charity. Select Southwood!

**Download the Southwood App for more calendar info
and to give electronically.**

Prayer Guide

Core Commitment

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

Pray for unity in Huntsville across racial, socioeconomic, denominational, and political lines.

Ask God to give wisdom and generosity to our business leaders as they seek to love their employees and make adjustments to businesses through this season where many have been impacted.

Pray for our global mission partners as many battle additional struggles of isolation and disruption through this season.

Specific Needs

Praise God for Ray Holton's good recovery this week from his hospitalization for blood pressure issues.

Pray for Kristen Woods and her family as they gather with her father, who is home on hospice this week.

Praise God for the birth of Lily James Fancher to Reeves and Elizabeth this week.

Praise God for good progress for Betty Bates as she recovers from COVID-19 and gets settled at Regency Retirement Village.

Pray for God's financial provision for our church at the end of the year that we may continue to share his generous spirit here and around the world.

Mission Partner

Second Mile Development

Second Mile serves families in the Terry Heights neighborhood of northwest Huntsville. Their ministries include The Neighborhood Store, Second Mile Preschool, and Parent Initiative. Please support them by praying for these requests.

Praise God with us for the ways He has helped us continue in ministry through this challenging year.

Pray that we would be able to minister to the parents who visit Santa's Secret Shop, and that they would be blessed by the opportunity to select and purchase gifts for their children.

Ask for God's financial provision as we complete this year and plan for 2021.

Senior Member

Bettie Murray

2414 Penn St SW
Huntsville, AL 35801

Expectant Mothers

Jordan Razook — December 2020

Libby Potts — December 2020

Catherine Barrett — February 2021

Shawnda McKinney — April 2021

Amber Colvard — April 2021

Cole Wasdin — May 2021

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

Southwood's Vision and Mission

Southwood exists to advance the kingdom of God as we experience and express grace.

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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Experience & Express
Grace