



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 20, 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

“Those who believe in God can never in a way be sure of him again. Once they have seen him in a stable, they can never be sure where he will appear or to what lengths he will go or to what ludicrous depths of self-humiliation he will descend in his wild pursuit of man. If holiness and the awful power and majesty of God were present in this least auspicious of all events, this birth of a peasant’s child, then there is no place where we can hide from God, no place where we are safe from his power to break in two and recreate the human heart because it is just where he seems most helpless that he is most strong, and just where we least expect him that he comes most fully.”

Frederick Buechner, *The Hungering Dark*

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

The Snyder Family
A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord. ... The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ... They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Isaiah 11:1-10

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ron Clegg
Associate Pastor

LEADER: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

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

EVERYONE: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Luke 2:10-14

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

INVOCATION

SONGS

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
"Joy to the World"

We affirm together what we believe.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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 9:6-7

SONG

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

John 1:9-11

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:12-14

Worship Service

SONG

“What Child Is This?”

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SONG

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Giving boxes are located in the rear of the Sanctuary.

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

Jeremiah 31:1-20

“The Father’s Heart”

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Joy to the World”

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 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

Sermon Notes

Bottom Line: The heart of God is drawn to our weariness and darkness to restore our joy in Him.

1. The Everlasting Love of the Faithful Father (31:1-9)

2. The Protection and Provision of the Good Shepherd (31:10-14)

3. The Unexpected Forgiveness of the Merciful Father (31:16-20)

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.

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 outdoors tonight so that more members of our church family and community can enjoy this Christmas show safely! The musical extravaganza will be at 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 20

11:00am — Connect Hour (All Ages)
6:00pm — Fa La Lodge @ Stovehouse

Monday - Friday, Dec 21-25

Church Office Closed (call or text before you come, as someone will often be in the building)

Thursday, December 24

4:30pm — Christmas Eve Outdoor Service
6:30pm — Christmas Eve Online Service

Deacon/Finance Update

2020 Budget

\$2,448,739

Weekly Budget Need

\$47,091

Last Week's Giving

\$104,397

Year to Date Giving

\$1,991,158

If you have any questions regarding end-of-year giving, please contact janice.crowson@southwood.org. There is a secure drop-box available 24/7 outside the covered office entrance. Gifts must be postmarked or received by December 31 to count in 2020 giving.

**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 that Huntsville would flourish in every way, beginning with a Spirit-led revival that would sweep through the churches of our city and overflow to our community.

Ask that Holy Spirit would work especially in our kids during this Christmas season that the joy of their Savior would be rich and full.

Pray for those in our family and community for whom the Christmas season brings particular grief, anxiety, or loneliness.

Specific Needs

Praise God for the birth of Margaret Elizabeth Potts to Stephen and Libby last week.

Praise God for the birth of Samuel Jude Razook to Danny and Jordan this week.

Pray for Kristen Woods and her family in the death of her father.

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.

Pray for Fa La Lodge and our Christmas Eve services to be used by God in the hearts and lives of many in our community who do not yet know Him and the true joy of Christmas.

Mission Partner

Amanda Koch - InterVarsity

Amanda is on staff with the campus ministry InterVarsity and serves at UAH. InterVarsity's goals are to see students and faculty transformed, campuses renewed, world changers developed. Please support our local chapter by praying for these requests.

Pray that God would calm the anxieties of students who are concerned about exposing their families to the coronavirus over the holidays.

Ask God to continue blessing the efforts of students Abby and Myles, who have started a Bible study for the residents of their dorm.

Join us in praying for a movement of spiritual restoration on the UAH campus.

Senior Member

Sharon Howard

4101 Devon St SE
Huntsville, AL 35802-1053

Expectant Mothers

Catherine Barrett — February 2021

Shawnda McKinney — April 2021

Amber Colvard — April 2021

Cole Wasdin — May 2021

Lou Ellen Schweers — 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