



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 27, 2020
8:45 AM Prayer Gathering
9:30 AM Worship Service

Worship Service

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

MEDITATION

“‘Yes,’ said Queen Lucy. ‘In our world too, a stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world.’”

C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Derrick Harris
Associate Pastor

LEADER: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

PEOPLE: *The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.*

LEADER: We desire to live in God’s house and to seek God in his holy temple.

PEOPLE: *We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.*

LEADER: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

ALL: *Teach us your ways and make straight our paths in this hour of worship and always.*

Psalms 27 and John 4

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

SONGS

“O Holy Night”

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

PRAYER

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. We ask in Jesus’ name, Amen.

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

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

Jeremiah 33:8

SONG

“Who is This, So Weak and Helpless?”

God places the sign of his covenant promises on the child of parents who place their trust in Him.

BAPTISM

Millie Catherine Heyward

Daughter of Barnes and Cappy Heyward

SONG

“Away in a Manger”

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.

Worship Service

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

PREACHING OF THE WORD

Will Spink
Senior Pastor

Luke 2:21-38
"Waiting for Jesus"

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.

There is NO Connect Hour today due to the holidays. We resume Jan. 10 ...
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

Introduction: How well do you wait?

1. The Significance of Jesus

- To the Jews
- To the Gentiles

2. Rejoicing in Jesus

- Dying in Peace
- Living with Purpose

Conclusion: How will you wait for the second Advent of Jesus? ...
It all comes down to how significant you believe Jesus to be!

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.

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. Please pick up another copy if you need another one, and we will also be in the office this week if you want to stop by to get a book!

Welcome to Southwood Class

Do you want to learn more about the heart of Southwood? Are you interested in connecting with the mission and people of our church family or pursuing church membership? Join us starting Sunday, January 17, during the Connect Hour (11:00am) in Classroom D, where we have room to spread out. Contact wyketa.shipman@southwood.org to sign up so we have materials prepared for you. Nursery is available, and the class will be finished by Spring Break.

This Week @ Southwood

Sunday, December 27

11:00am — NO Connect Hr (All Ages)

Monday - Thursday, Dec 28-31

Church Office Open 9-5

Friday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Deacon/Finance Update

2020 Budget

\$2,448,739

Weekly Budget Need

\$47,091

Last Week's Giving

\$81,940

Year to Date Giving

\$2,073,098

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.

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

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 our leaders as they plan for what next year looks like for our church in this ever changing season.

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

Brett Stanfield — June 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