



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 6, 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

“Advent is designed to show that the meaning of Christmas is diminished to the vanishing point if we are not willing to take a fearless inventory of the darkness.”
Fleming Rutledge

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

James and Brett Stanfield

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.
Micah 5:2-5

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Derrick Harris
Associate Pastor

LEADER: Let the people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you!

PEOPLE: *Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the people with equity and guide the nations upon earth.*

LEADER: Yes, let the people praise you, O God!

ALL: *Let all the people praise you!* Psalm 67:3-5

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

SONGS

“Angels We Have Heard On High”
“O Holy Night”

PRAYER

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 affirm together what we believe.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Nicene Creed (325 AD)

SONG

“What Child Is This?”

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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 God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:5

SONG

“Who Is This, So Weak and Helpless?”

Worship Service

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SONG

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

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

Isaiah 9:1-7

"Light in the Darkness"

SONG OF RESPONSE

"What Child Is This?"

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 outside the Lodge across the street

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

Sermon Notes

1. Dwelling in Darkness

* Where are you weary of the darkness today?

2. Light Breaking Through

* What would it look like for light to bring you lasting joy?

3. The Identity of the Light

- Wonderful Counselor

- Mighty God

- Everlasting Father

- Prince of Peace

* What aspect of Jesus gives you joy in your darkness this Christmas?

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. There will be a recorded service broadcast online 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 6

11:00am — Connect Hour (All Ages)
7:00pm — Sr. High-Life

Tuesday, December 8

6:30pm — Session meeting

Wednesday, December 9

No Jr. High-Life
6:30pm — Women's Bible Study

Thursday, December 10

9:30am — Women's Bible Study
6:30pm — Women's Bible Study

Deacon/Finance Update

2020 Budget

\$2,448,739

Weekly Budget Need

\$47,091

Last Week's Giving

\$49,178

Year to Date Giving

\$1,793,997

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 our local mission partners as they share the hope of Christmas in word and deed to our community.

Ask Holy Spirit to renew our love for those who are most difficult to love in our lives, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

Pray for our city school system, administrators, teachers, and students as they navigate this week's security breach and seek to love kids and families well the rest of the semester.

Specific Needs

Pray for Ray Holton, who has been hospitalized this week with blood pressure issues.

Praise God for some good reports for Dan Simmons, who is hospitalized in ICU with COVID-19, and please pray for his continued recovery as well as for Deborah, who is sick at home.

Praise God for the birth of Robin Herbert Atkins to Ethan and Hannah this week.

Pray for Maggie Majors in the recent deaths of her grandfather and grandmother.

Praise God for Kevin Waldrop's return home from the hospital after being treated for COVID-19 and pneumonia, as well as for Claire's continued health.

Pray for a deepening longing for our true home this Advent season.

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

Elaine Hill

2048 Rosebury Lane SW
Huntsville, AL 35803

Expectant Mothers

Elizabeth Fancher — December 2020

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