



Brookwood
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 31, 2023

BROOKWOOD WORSHIP

We will be formed in Christ to love like family and live on mission.

Discipleship:

A community's journey of transformation to become and to make disciples, who are Spirit-empowered, apprentices to Jesus, who invite others to share in the Father's radical love.

Prelude

Blessed Be the Name

Samantha Carter

Arr. Faye Lopez

Welcome to Worship / Community Prayer

Larry McCutcheon

Hymn

New Year's Hymn

Tune: HYMN TO JOY / Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Worship through Tithes & Offerings

Praise Song

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Words and Music by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman

Scripture Reading

John 3:22-30; 34

Amy Causey

NIV

²²After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. ²³Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. ²⁴(This was before John was put in prison.) ²⁵An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. ²⁶They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

²⁷To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' ²⁹The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him,

and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less."

³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

"Healthy Discipleship: Gift Returns"

Dr. Blake Dempsey

Prayer

Prayer for the New Year

Written by John W. Vest

God of wisdom and truth,
at the beginning of this new year
we look back and we look forward.

In the year that has passed
we experienced joy and we experienced sorrow;
we felt blessed and we felt challenged.
Some things went by much too fast,
and some things lingered for far too long.

Here in this place
we are reminded that you are present through it all.
We are reminded that we are never alone.
We are reminded that nothing can separate us from your love.

So at the beginning of this new year,
we pause now in silence
to reflect on the year that has passed.

We remember the things from this past year that we are most thankful for.
We recall the moments we were the happiest.
We consider the times we felt most alive.

We recognize the times we gave and received the most love.

(silence)

We are grateful, God, that you were present in those times.

We also remember the things from this past year that we are least thankful for.
We recall the moments we were the least happy.
We consider the times we felt life draining from us.
We recognize the times we gave and received the least love.

(silence)

We are grateful, God, that you were present in those times too.

Gracious God,
at the beginning of this new year,
we also look forward to the year to come.
We are confident that you will be with us still,
when we are thankful and when we are not;
when we are happy and when we are sad;
when we feel alive and when we feel drained;
when we give and receive love and when we do not.

God, the world we live in is messy and challenging,
it is the world of King Herod,
a world of pain,
a world of doubt,
a world of fear,
a world of jealousy,
a world of violence,
a world of domination,
a world of injustice,
a world of human failings.

Yet, God, you are with us always.
So give us grace and give us courage
to live faithfully in this imperfect world.
Remind us always of the promise of your kingdom,
emerging around us and through us.
It is for this kingdom that we now pray,
using the words Jesus taught us.
Our Father...

Hymn of Response

All Glory Be To Christ

Trad. Scottish Folk Tune / Words: Dustin Kensrue

Benediction

Dr. Blake Dempsey

Postlude

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Melinda Dressler

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

Upcoming Events

Church offices are closed.

Monday, January 1st

Churchwide MLK Serve Day at True Vine

Monday, January 15th 10am-Noon

Lunch provided

Discover Brookwood

Sunday, January 21st during Sunday School

In the Chapel

The Gathering (Sunday Lunch)

Sunday, January 21st immediately following worship

In the Fellowship Hall

Supper Clubs

Saturday, January 27th & Monday, February 26th

More information and registrations is available on the
church app

Brookwood Ministers

Missionary in Residence

Every member of the church

Dr. Blake Dempsey

Senior Pastor

blaked@brookwood.org

Dr. Bryant Strain

Pastor Emeritus

Keith McLeod

Minister of Music & Adults

keithm@brookwood.org

Larry McCutcheon

Minister of Youth & Formation

larrym@brookwood.org

Sylvia Page

Minister to Preschoolers & Their Families

sylviap@brookwood.org

Mason Freeman

Minister to Children & Their Families

masonf@brookwood.org

Brian Pitts

Live on Mission Coach

pittsb@gmail.com



Scan for Giving, Guest Information & Service Opportunities

BROOKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

3449 OVERTON RD

MOUNTAIN BROOK, AL 35223

WWW.BROOKWOOD.ORG

205.967.0441