



Keep Watch

**DECEMBER 24, 2024
CHRISTMAS EVE
WILSHIRE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

4:00 p.m.

(For 11 p.m. service, see page 6)

Chiming of the Hour

We gather in community today to worship God. To help center our focus in worship, please silence all electronic devices.

Welcome to Worshipers

Timothy Peoples

Prelude

Wexford Carol

arr. Joey Hoelscher

Mark Miller, violin; Dan Totan, cello

+Processional Carol 103

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Staci, Phil, Tess, June, Nell and Lena McNicholas

Preparing the Nativity

Alice Boyd, Ana Boyd, Nicolette Brindle, Wilson Cole, Elton Cole, Elijah Cole, Jonathan Justice, Joel Justice, Rinnah Justice, Hamilton Lee, June McNicholas, Drew Murray, Annie Murray, Owen Reavis, Stella Scheuermann, Emily Skinner

Christ Candle Litany

Ariel Merivil

Leader: The angels sing, "I am bringing good news of great joy for all people."

All: The hopes and fears of all the years meet in the Christ-child tonight.

Leader: But how can we speak peace when the world is at war?

All: Tonight, we seek heavenly peace and mercy mild. God and sinner, reconciled.

Leader: When so many people are hurting, how can we feel joy?

All: In turmoil, heaven and nature still find a song; a weary world rejoices.

Leader: How will Love come to help us?

All: God's love becomes incarnate tonight. With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King. Christ the Savior is born.

—Adapted from *Calling All Angels* by Erin Wathen

Carol 110

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

The Word Becomes Flesh

Jimmie Mustain

+All congregants are invited to stand in body or spirit.
Hearing devices are available in the Narthex and South Atrium.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room.

Musical Meditation

The Friendly Beasts

Traditional

Darren DeMent, Julie Francis, Molly Shepard
Mark Miller, violin; Michael Shepard, percussion

Jesus, our brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown, “I carried his mother uphill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town; I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

“I,” said the cow, all white and red, “I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him hay to pillow his head; I,” said the cow, all white and red.

“I,” said the sheep with curly horn, “I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
He wore my coat on Christmas morn; I,” said the sheep with curly horn.

Thus all the beasts, by some good spell, in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel, the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

Christmas Prayer

Charlie Fuller

Christmas Blessing

Timothy Peoples

Congregational Song

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
No. 139

W ZLOBIE LEZY

+Gospel Story — Luke 2:8-16

Julie Girards

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising

God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
And for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

Sharing the Light

The pastor will take the flame from the Christ Candle, pass it to those who were baptized or joined Wilshire this year, and they will share the light throughout the congregation. With the lighted candle upright, share the light with your neighbor with the simple blessing, "The Light of the World."

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Audrey Pottkotter, soprano

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born. O night divine.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger;
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break for the prisoner is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy name

Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**+Silent night, holy night, wondrous *star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

*Raise candles here.

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

+Recessional Carol

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

Postlude

Improvisation

Jeff Brummel

As you leave the Sanctuary tonight, offerings may be placed in the offering receptacles to provide support for Together for Hope, which fights rural poverty through education, health, housing and social enterprise.

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024
11:00 p.m.

Chiming of the Hour

We gather in community tonight to worship God.
To help center our focus in worship, please silence all electronic devices.

Welcome to Worshipers

Timothy Peoples

Prelude

Once in Royal David's City

David Willcocks

+Processional Carol 103

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Lighting the Christ Candle

Tina Johnson, Drew Easley and Mitchell Easley

The Word Becomes Flesh

Ross Granberry

Christ Candle Litany

Ariel Merivil

Leader: The angels sing, "I am bringing good news of great joy for all people."

All: The hopes and fears of all the years meet in the Christ-child tonight.

Leader: But how can we speak peace when the world is at war?

All: Tonight, we seek heavenly peace and mercy mild. God and sinner, reconciled.

Leader: When so many people are hurting, how can we feel joy?

All: In turmoil, heaven and nature still find a song; a weary world rejoices.

Leader: How will Love come to help us?

All: God's love becomes incarnate tonight. With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King. Christ the Savior is born.

—Adapted from *Calling All Angels* by Erin Wathen

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Carol 132

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Stanzas 1 and 4

CAROL

Gospel Reading — Luke 1:26–38

Charlie Fuller

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Christmas Prayer

Heather Mustain

Carol 131

In the Bleak Midwinter
Stanzas 1, 2 and 4

CRANHAM

Gospel Reading — Luke 2:1–7

Julie Girards

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room.

Gospel Story — Luke 2:8–16

Maggie Morey

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Anthem

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Youth Choir and Alumni

Taylor Davis

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart,
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne,
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart,
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Christmas Homily

Timothy Peoples

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

All worshipers are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper by intinction. The congregation will be invited to come forward by rows. As you come forward open your hands and the minister will place the bread in your hand. You will then dip your bread in the chalice and partake. Please exit the pew to your left and return on the aisle to your right. All followers of Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table. The communion bread is gluten-free.

Music During Communion

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Audrey Pottkotter, soprano

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born. O night divine.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger;
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break for the prisoner is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy name

Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ... He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
And for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

Sharing the Light

The pastor will take the flame from the Christ Candle, pass it to those who were baptized or joined Wilshire this year, and they will share the light throughout the congregation. With the lighted candle upright, share the light with your neighbor with the simple blessing, "The Light of the World."

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**+Silent night, holy night, wondrous *star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;
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Let every heart prepare him room,
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**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
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Postlude

Improvisation

Jeff Brummel

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Wilshire Baptist Church Ministerial Staff

Kelly Akins, Minister to Preschoolers

Jeff Brummel, Associate Minister of Music and Organist

Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor

Charlie Fuller, Director of Pathways to Ministry

Julie Girards, Minister to Children

George Mason, Senior Pastor Emeritus

Georgia McKee, Pastoral Resident

Ariel Merivil, Minister of Music

Maggie Morey, Pastoral Resident

Katie Murray, Minister to Senior Adults

Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor

Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor



Wilshire

BAPTIST CHURCH

4316 Abrams Road | Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214-452-3100 | wilshirebc.org

Building a Community of Faith Shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ

Partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Member, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists



We're glad you're here. If you're a guest today and would like to let us know, please scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to access our online response card. You can also scan the code to make a financial contribution or submit a prayer request. Response cards and offering envelopes are available in the pew racks and can be placed in the offering plate or offering boxes.