



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

December 29, 2024
First Sunday after Christmas

Preparing for worship

There are just three more days to squeeze in those last bits of New Year's resolutions you created almost a year ago! Some of us have stopped even trying to consider resolutions, and others make them every year without fail — even if we might fail at them.

I am one of the former. Resolutions are a great thought, but I know myself well enough to realize that gym and I do not get along with each other, no matter how much I desire a six-pack. Then there are other things I know I am steady at and do not need a resolution to make sure they are part of my life or daily routine.

In the 1964 edition of *Webster's New Practical School Dictionary* — my favorite dictionary — the fourth definition of “resolution” defines it as “something resolved or decided on; a fixed determination.” I like that last part: a fixed determination. What are your mind and heart fixed upon? How have your actions shown these determinations in your life?

Our Scripture today is quite funny, concerning and inspiring. Mary and Joseph are headed back to their home, not realizing Jesus is not with them. You might be wondering how these people could not notice their child is missing. Scholars suggest going to the Passover festival was not

just a hop in the car and go on down the road and back, but rather a caravan with men in the front with the cattle, donkeys and goods, women in the middle and children last. In this large grouping of people you just assumed all were accounted for and in line to go. But Jesus stays in Jerusalem, assuming his parents knew where he would be. They find him in the temple worshipping, learning and even questioning. They find him in holy space living out a holy life.

I know this is a lot to ask, but would you make a resolution to be here, mentally and physically present to what is offered and shared through worship, learning and even questioning? Will you resolve to be present with God and community? I know the trends and how often people are actually in church, but when you are here, why not be fully engaged with how the spirit is moving you and those around you to be kingdom builders and wise agents of God in the world?

I do not see this as some kind of New Year's resolution. I see it as a soul-building and heart-reconciling move that will change us from the inside out. It is not something we try and then quit, but a life-giving purpose to ensure wisdom and knowledge.

—Timothy Peoples



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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

On the cover: *Christ in the Rubble*, Kelly Latimore, 2023.

December 29, 2024
11:00 a.m.
First Sunday after Christmas

Chiming of the Hour

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

Welcome to Worshipers

Heather Mustain

Prelude

The Sounds of Christmas

arr. Robert J. Hughes

+Congregational Song

Once In Royal David's City
No. 104

IRBY

+Call to Worship

Charlie Fuller

Leader: Children of God, Jesus Christ is born!

People: God has come to make a home among us!

Leader: Yet the story is not over. After birth comes the ordinary and mundane growing, maturing and discovering, even for the Christ Child.

People: In the ordinary and mundane, God has come to make a home among us.

Leader: And sometimes, in the midst of the everyday, something surprising happens, and we discover anew just what God is up to in our midst.

People: In the surprising and spectacular, God has come to make a home among us.

Leader: Children of God, let us worship the God who dwells with us in all things and all seasons.

People: We come to make our home with God who makes a home among us. Amen.

+Response in Song

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king.**

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

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise the LORD in the heights!
Praise the LORD, all God's angels; praise the LORD, all God's host!

People: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars! Praise God, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for God commanded and they were created. The LORD established them forever and ever; God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

People: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Leader: Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for God's name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven.

People: The LORD has raised up a horn for God's people, praise for all the faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to the LORD.

All: Praise the LORD!

Offertory

Joy Medley

arr. Heather Sorenson

+Gospel Reading — Luke 2:41-52

Kevin Cabaniss

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

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!

+Congregational Song

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
No. 139

W ZLOBIE LEZY

Message

“Finding Jesus”

Georgia McKee

Anthem

Gesù Bambino (The Infant Jesus)
Wayne Mkhize, tenor

Pietro A. Yon/arr. Hayes

When blossoms flowered amid the snows
Upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced;
And at his blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.

O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,
Its King of Love and Light.

Let every voice acclaim his name,
The grateful chorus swell.
From paradise to earth he came
That we with him might dwell.

Prayers of the People

Darren DeMent

Silence

We pause in silence to reflect and to be attentive to the Spirit of God.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

+Congregational Song

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
No. 143

GO TELL IT

Sharing of Decisions

Georgia McKee

Benediction

Georgia McKee

Postlude

Joyful Tidings

arr. James Moffatt

Candy McComb, Guest Music Director
Cindy Fuller, Guest Organist

Meet today's worship leaders

Kevin Cabaniss grew up at Wilshire and is married to Carol. They are the parents of three young adult children, Peyton, Tanner and Trace. Kevin is a deacon, teaches fifth grade Sunday School, serves on the Missions Committee, sings in Sanctuary Choir and Nova, plays in Carillon Ringers and has participated in several Faith in 3D productions. He serves as the VP of Legal and Compliance at Airbus Helicopters.

Wayne Mkhize, a tenor from Kimberley, South Africa, is pursuing a master's degree in voice performance at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, where he previously completed the Performer's Diploma program. He is in his second year as a Wilshire choral scholar. Wayne has performed with the Dallas Opera Educational Outreach Program and portrayed roles such as Nemorino in *The Elixir of Love* and Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*.



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.

Scripture quotations: New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America, used by permission, all rights reserved, adapted for inclusive language. Music reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under One License #A-739361. All rights reserved. *Gesù Bambino* ©1999 Jubilate Music Group.

Staff contacts

Phone numbers: 214-452- followed by extension shown below. **Email addresses:** first letter of first name and full last name followed by @wilshirebc.org (example: tpeoples@wilshirebc.org). Staff members with phone extensions have Wilshire email addresses.

Communications

- Mark McKenzie, Communications Director (3169)

Congregational Care

- Barbara Clayton, Pastoral Care Assistant (3125)
- Linda Garner, Parish Nurse (3151)
- Carolyn Murray, Coordinator of Congregational Life (3170)
- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

Early Childhood Learning Center

- Carole McClung, ECLC Administrative Assistant (3115)
- Ramona Randle, ECLC Director (3140)

Finance

- Lori Gooden, Director of Finance (3131)

Food Services

- Haley Garcia, Food Service Director (3117)
- Luke Munion, Food Service Staff
- Gillian Tinsley, Food Service Staff
- Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, Food Service Staff

Hospitality and Facilities

- Maricela Escutia, Facilities Supervisor
- Holly Irvin, Director of Hospitality (3150)
- Daniel Latin, Facilities
- Leticia Medina, Facilities
- Rachel Oney, Receptionist (3165)
- Kevin Sierra, Facilities
- Leticia Vega, Facilities

Missions and Advocacy

- Abbey Adcox, Missions and Advocacy Coordinator (3127)
- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

Music and Worship

- Jeff Brummel, Associate Minister of Music/Organist (3122)
- Carol Cabaniss, Music and Worship Coordinator (3106)
- Shana Gaines, Wilshire Winds Director (3163)
- Ralph Manuel, Handbell Coordinator (3161)
- Candy McComb, Children's Choir Coordinator (3124)
- Ariel Merivil, Minister of Music (3135)

Operations and Technology

- Rene Altamirano, Maintenance Technician
- Bryant Greer, Building Operations Manager (3146)
- Jim Tapley, Audio and Video Coordinator

Pathways to Ministry

- Debby Burton, Pathways to Ministry Assistant (3158)
- Charlie Fuller, Pathways to Ministry Director and Coach in Residence (3123)
- George Mason, Senior Pastor Emeritus and Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director (3133)
- Georgia McKee, Pastoral Resident (3152)
- Maggie Morey, Pastoral Resident (3153)

Senior Pastor

- Chelsea Hopkins, Executive Assistant (3132)
- Geri McKenzie, Executive Director of Administration (3159)
- Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor (3132)

Spiritual Formation

- Kelly Akins, Minister to Preschoolers (3139)
- Becky Bridges, Spiritual Formation Coordinator (3130)
- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Katie Murray, Minister to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)

Tapestry



News & Announcements
December 29, 2024

Holiday closures

■ The church building will be closed and staff members on break through Thursday, Jan. 2. On Friday, Jan. 3, staffers will return to work but the building will remain closed.

■ If you have an urgent pastoral need over the break, contact Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples at 214-452-3171 or tpeoples@wilshirebc.org.

Year-end giving

■ While the church office is closed, checks can be dropped into the secure black **mailbox** accessible from the south parking lot. Checks in the mailbox will be retrieved in time to count as 2024 giving.

■ **Mailed checks** must be postmarked by Dec. 31.

■ **Online gifts** can be made before midnight on Dec. 31.

■ **Stock gifts** must arrive in Wilshire's Fidelity account no later than Dec. 30. Email Lori Gooden at lgooden@wilshirebc.org for account information and to let her know about the gift.

■ See wilshirebc.org/give for more information.

Wednesdays on break

■ **Wednesday Night Live** is on a break for the holidays and will resume Jan. 8.

■ **Lunch & Learn**, regularly held the first and third Wednesdays each month, resumes Jan. 15.

Next Blood Drive is Jan. 8

Carter BloodCare will be at Wilshire for a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are recommended. Visit wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive to make an appointment.

Rise Against Hunger on MLK Day

Join us on MLK Day, Monday, Jan. 20, as we partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack healthy meals for those in need. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in Community Hall. This project is for everyone and includes ways to serve while seated. Children are a great help collecting completed bags with help from a parent. Volunteers are needed to help set up starting at 8:30 a.m. and clean up afterward. Rise Against Hunger's mission is to create immediate and long-term solutions to hunger by building resilience, self-sufficiency and empowerment in communities worldwide. All volunteers must register and complete a waiver at events.riseagainsthunger.org/wilshirebaptistchurch2025.

Annual Church Conference

Make plans to attend our annual church conference in Community Hall after worship on Sunday, Jan. 26. We'll adopt a budget, elect deacons and committees and hear updates about the church. Lunch will be provided and childcare will be available. More details to come.



Sundays: Worship at 11 a.m. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Our service livestreams at youtube.com/wilshirebaptist and at wilshirebc.org/worship/livestream. Keep up with Wilshire by subscribing to our YouTube channel and following us on Facebook and Instagram.