



O light



come down

to earth

Celebration of the Green | December 7, 2025
Wilshire Baptist Church

“O LIGHT, COME DOWN TO EARTH”

Celebration of the Green
December 7, 2025 | 6:30 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

O LIGHT, CREATE AND BECOME FLESH

Scripture Collage — Genesis 1 and John 1

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

J. S. Bach

Sanctuary Choir

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.
This Child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

“A Blessing for Traveling in the Dark” — Jan Richardson

from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*

Go slow
if you can.
Slower.
More slowly still.
Friendly dark
or fearsome,
this is no place
to break your neck
by rushing,
by running,
by crashing into
what you cannot see.

Then again,
it is true:
different darks
have different tasks,
and if you
have arrived here unawares,
if you have come
in peril
or in pain,
this might be no place
you should dawdle.

I do not know
what these shadows
ask of you,
what they might hold
that means you good
or ill.
It is not for me
to reckon
whether you should linger
or you should leave.

But this is what
I can ask for you:

That in the darkness
there be a blessing.
That in the shadows
there be a welcome.
That in the night
you be encompassed
by the Love that knows
your name.

Hymn 103

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Please rise in body or spirit and sing.

ADESTE FIDELES

“God’s Grandeur” — Gerard Manley Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man’s smudge and shares man’s smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Hymn 125

Angels We Have Heard on High
Please rise in body or spirit and sing.

GLORIA

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

Children’s Choir

Terry D. Taylor

There’s a star in the east on Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Savior’s born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Rise up! Rise up! Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star to Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel’s words;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
You’ll forget your flocks; you’ll forget your herds;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

O LIGHT, BREAK THROUGH OUR DARKNESS

Scripture Collage — Isaiah 9 and Luke 2

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen/arr. Reynolds

Wilshire Winds

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger!
O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear
the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Hymn 105

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS'

“A Christmas Carol” — Christina Rossetti

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,—
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

Nova

Lullay my liking, my dear Son, my sweeting
Lullay my dear heart, mine own dear darling

O Christ, Redeemer of us all
The Father's light, and splendor bright

Lullay my liking, my dear Son, my sweeting
Light of thine own heart, in my arms sleeping

In the stillness Christ is born,
Light has come, and darkness flies
Glory wakes the sleeping skies

Lullay my liking, my dear Son, my sweeting
Lullay my dear heart, your brightness greeting

Christ our dawn, our hope, our flame
All the earth shall bless his name
In the stillness, light is born
Morning breaks where night was worn

Lullay my liking, my dear Son, my sweeting
Light of all heaven, to earth, descending

Angels bright they sang that night
And saien to that child,
"Blessed be thou, and so be she that is so meek and mild"

Lullay my liking, my dear Son, my sweeting
Lullay my dear heart, here in straw sleeping

Every age adoring fall: The Word of God in flesh arrayed
The promised light to man displayed

Lullay my liking, my dear Son, my sweeting
Lullay my dear heart, mine own dear darling

O LIGHT, COME AND ABIDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

Keith Chapman

Jeff Brummel, organ

Scripture Collage — Isaiah 60 and John 8

Arise, Shine, Thy Light Has Come

Kevin McChesney

Carillon Ringers

“The Coming” — R. S. Thomas

And God held in his hand
A small globe. Look he said.
The son looked. Far off,
As through water, he saw
A scorched land of fierce
Colour. The light burned
There; crusted buildings
Cast their shadows: a bright
Serpent, a river
Uncoiled itself, radiant
With slime.

On a bare
Hill a bare tree saddened
The sky. Many people
Held out their thin arms
To it, as though waiting
For a vanished April
To return to its crossed
Boughs. The son watched
Them. Let me go there, he said.

Hymn 132

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

O LIGHT, LEAD US HOME

“Lead, Kindly Light” — Blessed John Henry Newman

Lead, Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead Thou me on.
Keep Thou my feet;
I do not ask to see the distant scene;
one step enough for me.
I was not ever thus, nor prayed that
Thou shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
Lead Thou me on.
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears, pride ruled my will;
remember not past years.

So long Thy power hath blessed me, sure it still
Will lead me on.
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

Keep Your Lamps

Sanctuary Choir

André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.
Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Scripture Collage — Psalm 27 and Luke 1

Gloria, in excelsis deo! Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory to God in the highest!
Christ is born on Christmas day!

Please rise in body or spirit and join in singing.

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on the earth, and mercy mild; God and sinner reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald the angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”**

**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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald the angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”**

Gloria, in excelsis deo! Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory to God in the highest!
Christ is born on Christmas day!

Gloria

André Thomas

Sanctuary Choir
Katherine Pottkotter, soloist

Glory, glory to God, and on earth peace to all those of goodwill. Glory to God in the highest.
We praise thee, we bless thee, we adore thee, we glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory.

Lord God, King of Heaven, Father, Almighty One.
Glory be to Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, the Father’s only Son,
O thou who takes away all the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Receive our prayers.
Thou who sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty in heaven, have mercy on us!

For only thou art holy, only thou art the Lord.
For only thou art holy, only thou art most high.
In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son,
In the name of the Holy Ghost, in the glory of the Father, amen. Amen!

Reflection and Sending

Georgia McKee

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain

Carolyn Jennings

Combined Children, Youth and Sanctuary Choirs

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, Shout the good news:
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will ever keep them safe from harm.
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven,
He who fashioned the earth and the sea.
From time eternal, he was God, the Alpha and Omega, He.
Behold your Lord!

He will come in power and glory,
He will rule with mercy and truth,
Hope of the nations, light of all the world.

He will love the little children,
He will hold them in his arms.
Love and trust him as a child,
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

Hymn 102

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH

All are invited to a reception in James Gallery following the program.

Readers: Amanda Hines, Georgia McKee, Jordann McMahan, Maggie Morey

Percussion: Jonah Payne

Wilshire Baptist Church Music Ministry

Jeff Brummel, Associate Minister of Music and Organist

Carol Cabaniss, Music and Worship Coordinator

Shana Gaines, Wilshire Winds Director

Ralph Manuel, Handbell Coordinator

Candy McComb, Children's Choir Coordinator

Ariel Merivil, Minister of Music

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Wilshire Baptist Church gratefully acknowledges those who gave poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary this Advent season. The love expressed through these flowers is dedicated to the Lord and Savior whose birth we celebrate.

In memory of:

Maxey Abernathy by Carole Jean Abernathy	Avonne Bullock by Stan Bullock
Maxey Abernathy by Paula, Jason, Garrett, Kathryn Woodbury and Sher Moo Ku	Bobby J. Bunch by Deanna, Jeff, David and Brian Bunch
Charles F. Ackerman by Betty Ackerman	Robert Burns by Melissa Burns
Paul Alloway by Jane Alloway	Melanie Canant by Melissa Burns
Paul Alloway by Paula Alloway	Bobbie Coleman by Cindy and David Coleman
Paul Alloway by Sue Alloway	Diane Thedford Collins by Bryan Rollins and Robert Rollins
Zane Thomas Anderson by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit Anderson	Uncle Spencer Cordell by the Cordell family
Sharon Austin by Linda and Mike Imhoof	Daddy, a.k.a. Paw-Paw, by the Barker family
Jeffrey Basden by Jenyce Gush	Leon DeMent, Jr. by Joannah, Darren, Virginia and Elias DeMent
Mimi Basden by Jenyce Gush	Annalee Murphy Duncan by David Duncan
C. Allen Bashour by Kathryn and Chase Thompson	Margaret Duncan by David Duncan
James Beasley by Vickie Conn	Lori Wallace Dusek by Jim Wallace
Maxine Bradford by Cindy and David Coleman	Emery Evans by the Evans family
Preston Bright by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton	Jesse Evans by the Evans family
Ezekiel and Cherry Brown by Dorrell Brown	Charlie and Joy Fenner by Debbie and Marc LaChey
Mac Buchanan by Diane Buchanan	Sue Fisette by Dorrell Brown
Avonne Bullock by Allison, Chad, Forrest, Peyton and Carson Brown	Sue Fisette by Robert Fisette, Sheri Brooks and Jennifer Kitto
	Emma Nell Freedman by Melissa Burns

George Gagliardi by Lyn and Ross Prater	Jonathan McGregor by Labyrinth Sunday School Class
Peaches and Sandy Hallman by Dawn and Steven Hallman	Glen and Mary Evelyn McLaughlin by Suzy McLaughlin
Sasha Nicole Hallman by Dawn and Steven Hallman	Spencer Cole Mihm by Ann Marie, Mark and Jackson Mihm
Mack Hampton by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton	Marilyn Williamson Moore by Angie Moore
Miriam Henry by Tina and Bill Johnson	Michael Ray Moore by Angie Moore
Dollie Hill by Donna Gregory	Sheila Duncan Moore by David Duncan
Jill Gush Hrcir by Jenyce Gush	Shelia and Gene Moore by Carole Jean Abernathy
Alister James Hyder by Carole and Jerry Duval	Sheila and Gene Moore by the Moore family
Lindsay Nicole Hyder by Carole and Jerry Duval	Kit Murphy by Melissa Burns
Johnny Johnson by Linda and Mike Imhoof	Bradley Thomas Newsom by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit Anderson
Cathy Jones by Lucinda Jones	C. Thomas Newsom by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit Anderson
Joanna Ching-Ping Wong Jones by Bill Jones and family	Douglas Newsom by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit Anderson
Julian Kampfschulte by Paula, Jason, Garrett, Kathryn Woodbury and Sher Moo Ku	Dot and Asa A. Newsom, Jr. by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit Anderson
Perry Kite by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton	Bill O'Brien by B.E.S.T. Sunday School Class
Warren Kitts by the Sloan family	Gary Cruz Perales by Gina Waterman
Fayrinne Lester by Deborah Suderman	Jesús Perales by Gina Waterman
Virgil T. Lester by Deborah Suderman	Pauline Plunkett by Vickie Conn
Doris and Dick Luttrell by Sally and Richard Luttrell	David L. Prater by Lyn and Ross Prater
Earl Martin by Judi Smalling	Marian Rollins by Bryan Rollins and Robert Rollins
Ivan Martinez's family by Linda and Ivan Martinez	
Linda Martinez's parents by Linda and Ivan Martinez	

Stephen Rollins by Bryan Rollins and Robert Rollins

Wells Rollins by Bryan Rollins and Robert Rollins

John M. Shaw by Dawn and Steven Hallman

Jim Spell by Pam Spell

Ellen and Louis Sturdivant by Tracy Sturdivant

Joyce and Bob Sturdivant by Tracy Sturdivant

Doris “Meme” Swift by Deanna and Chuck Swift

Donna Martin Thompson by Kathryn and Chase Thompson

Donna Twomey by Barbara and Don Floyd

Marjory, Norma, Charles and Julian Sr. by the Vigil family

Judith and Forrest Wallace by Jim Wallace

Louise and Otto Wallace by Jim Wallace

Patricia Ann Wallace by Jim Wallace

Evelyn and Richard Wallis by Sondra Wallis

David Walters by Kristi, Ethan, Chris and Sam Walters

Charlie and LuFan Watson by Charlene and Bob Law

Jim White by B.E.S.T. Sunday School Class

Jenna Worthen by Jenyce Gush

In honor of:

Carole Jean Abernathy by the Moore family

Carole Jean Abernathy by Paula, Jason, Garrett, Kathryn Woodbury and Sher Moo Ku

Kelly Akins by the Little Women of Wilshire

Claudia and Joe Barner by Janice and Bill Jernberg

Mary Lynne Bright by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton

Nicolette Brindle by Angela Brindle

Monna Brown by Barbara and Don Floyd

Jeff Brummel by Katherine Pottkotter

Debby Burton by Carol Cabaniss

Debby Burton by Barbara and Don Floyd

Mary Carver by Cord of Three Sunday School Class

Children’s Choir leadership by Candy McComb

Susan Clark by Mig and John Coates

Mig and John Coates by Jeri Baker

Dale Cohen by Barbara and Don Floyd

Compass Sunday School Class by Jenyce Gush

Discovery Sunday School Class by Dorrell Brown

Diana Early and Andrea Watkins by Mary and Paul Early

Cindy and Charlie Estee by Suzy McLaughlin

Davanel Fitzgerald by Gina Waterman

Linda Garner by Jeri Baker

Steven Hallman by Candy McComb and Vic Henry	One Starry Night planning team and volunteers by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton
Ann Hampton by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton	
Amanda Hines by Monica Mullins	Max Post by Linda and Mike Imhoof
Janice and Bill Jernberg by the Pendery family	Pre-K Choir (Songbirds) by Alison Wingfield
Thelma Kite by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton	Preschool Choir leadership by Candy McComb
Charlene and Bob Law by Dorrell Brown	The Sefzik family by the Moore family
Charlene Law by Alison and Mark Wingfield	Dorothy Shaw by Dawn and Steven Hallman
Courtney, Gabe, Nicholas, Jordan and Brooklyn Leal by Suzy McLaughlin	Barrett Shaw by the Sloan family
Valerie Lott by the Little Women of Wilshire	Betty Skelton by Jeri Baker
Valerie Lott by Suzy McLaughlin	Laura and Dennis Smith by Sondra Wallis
Margie Lynn by Jeri Baker	Sarah and Allan Stafford by Jeri Baker
Linda Martinez's family in Wisconsin by Linda and Ivan Martinez	Linda and Jerry Willman by Tina and Bill Johnson
Candy McComb by Alison Wingfield	Wilshire food services staff, Haley Garcia, Luke Munion and Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, by Lyn and Ross Prater
Wilma McMurray by Pam Stiles	Wilshire facilities staff, Maricela Escutia, Daniel Latin, Leticia Medina, Kevin Sierra and Leticia Vega, by Lyn and Ross Prater
Skye and Nick McQuillan by Dawn and Steven Hallman	Wilshire friends by Dorrell Brown
Ariel Merivil by Monica Mullins	Wilshire operations and technology staff, Rene Altamirano, Bryant Greer and Jim Tapley, by Lyn and Ross Prater
Mom, a.k.a. Granma, by the Barker family	
Griffin Moore by Nicki and Geoff Moore	Wilshire staff by Sally and Richard Luttrell
Meredith, Matt and Parker Mosley by Barbara and Don Floyd	Wilshire staff by Suzy McLaughlin
Music ministry team by Candy McComb	The Woodbury family by the Moore family
Odyssey Sunday School Class by Candy McComb and Vic Henry	

ADVENT 2025 WILSHIRE BAPTIST CHURCH

Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, Dec. 10 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary | Kindergarten, Pre-K and 3-Year-Old choirs will be in costume as they sing and act out the Nativity.

Songwriter Vespers: Holiday Edition

Sunday, Dec. 14 | 4:30 p.m. | Choral Hall | Associate Pastor Darren DeMent and other musicians will explore the full range of holiday emotions through songs by Joni Mitchell, Tom Waits, Lyle Lovett and others. Part worship service and part coffeehouse concert, this won't be your typical church Christmas program.

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, Dec. 24

■ **4 p.m.** | Our family service is suitable for all ages.

■ **11 p.m.** | Our liturgical service includes celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Sunday School series

Darren DeMent and Katie Murray are leading a Sunday School series on the four Sundays of Advent at 9:45 a.m. in McIver Chapel. In the class, the Advent virtues of hope, peace, joy and love will be explored using the poetry of Wendell Berry.

Advent art show

Light is the common theme of the 16 works by artist Sandra Bowden on display through Jan. 4 in the South Lobby. Each piece in *Illuminations* is embellished with gold leafing, an adornment characteristic of many medieval texts. Visit whenever the building is open.

Giving Tree

Select a tag from the Giving Tree in James Gallery and fulfill a Christmas wish for a child or adult served by our Rental and Utility Assistance Program or a local mission partner. Scan your tag's QR code and we'll send you a due-date reminder.

■ We also have a **Virtual Giving Tree**. Find the link at wilshirebc.org/giving-tree.

Tree of Hope and Remembrance

Help decorate our Tree of Hope and Remembrance in the South Lobby by writing the name of a loved one as a memorial or your name as a survivor of cancer or another disease. Ornaments and markers are provided at the tree.

Wilshire Library Online Book Fair



Get some of your Christmas shopping done and help the Wilshire Library at the same time by shopping the Library's Online Book Fair from Dec. 1 to 16. The Library will receive 25% of all sales. More than 212,000 titles are available, from baby books to young adult. Scan QR code or visit wilshirebc.org/events/book-fair to start browsing.



Interactive Bethlehem Experience

Friday, Dec. 19
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Free Admission

Bring the whole family and invite friends and neighbors for One Starry Night, our free interactive Bethlehem Experience, on Friday, Dec. 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wilshire's Community Hall will be transformed into the village of Bethlehem, with shops, tradespeople, food and storytelling about the whispered birth of a special baby. This event is especially suited for families with children, but will be fun for all ages.



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

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship | Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

We acknowledge that this land where we gather once held the sacred voices of Indigenous peoples and bore the suffering of the enslaved.



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.