



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

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9:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Advent

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

Amanda Hines

Centering Silence

One: We breathe in the breath of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Call to Worship

Amanda Hines

One: O Lord, you bring order from chaos, and shape light out of darkness.

All: The creator delights, and all of creation sings of your glory.

One: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joy as we reflect on and light
the candles of hope and peace

All: May the light from this candle be a sign of the intricacies of joy.

One: In our sorrow and mourning, we long for your companion of joy.

All: In the uncertain and unknown, we await the Incarnation.

One: In the now and not yet, may joy find us in unexpected ways as we call out together:

All: O Light come down to earth, be praised!

+Congregational Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
No. 79

VENI EMMANUEL

Scripture Reading — Genesis 1:1–5, 14–19

Maggie Morey

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ... And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for

signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

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!

Message

Maggie Morey

Prayer Practice — Visio Divina

Timothy Peoples

Music for Meditation

In the Bleak Midwinter
Darren DeMent and Molly Shepard

Rossetti/Holst

In the bleak midwinter
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 midwinter,
Long ago.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Shone in the air;
But only his mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a holy 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;
but what I can I give him,
I give him my heart.

Sending

Maggie Morey

Benediction

Maggie Morey

One: God our maker,
We honor the sacred multitude that resides in you.

**All: May the guardian in you protect us.
May the child in you delight in us.**

One: May the friend in you challenge us.
May your ashes resurrect us.

**All: May your sky shelter us.
May the mystery of you liberate us.**

One: Provide abundance and healing in all forms to those who need it today.
And deliver us from shame, hatred, and the chains that bind us.

**All: For you have made us, and we are still being made.
Amen.**



We're glad you're here.

If you're a guest today and would like to let us know, 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 pews and can be given to any minister after the service.

Parking note: When possible, please use the north parking lot to save closer spaces for our guests with limited mobility.



Scan for the latest Wilshire news and events.

wilshirebc.org

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

Cover art: *The Division of Light from the Darkness*, Paul Nash, 1924, wood engraving on hand-made paper. **Benediction:** Cole Arthur Riley's *Black Liturgies*. **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.