



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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9:00 a.m.
Fourth 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

Timothy Peoples

Centering Silence

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

Call to Worship

Timothy Peoples

One: We turn our hearts toward the One who is Love.

All: Because God is love, we are never left to wander alone.

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love as we remember and light the flames of hope, peace and joy.

All: May this candle remind us of the vastness and closeness of love everlasting.

One: May love rise into the shadows of this world,

All: Into the shadows of hatred, despair, grief and pain.

One: Help us move toward love in our words and actions,

All: Caring for all we encounter better each day.

One: As the candle of love steadies, we are invited into the fullness of love and light as we call out:

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

+Congregational Song

The First Nowell
No. 124

THE FIRST NOWELL

Scripture Reading — Matthew 5:14–16; 43–48

Amanda Hines

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ... “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall

love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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

Amanda Hines

Prayer Practice — Visio Divina

Maggie Morey

Music for Meditation

Bridge Over Troubled Water
Elle Sheaffer and Michael Sheaffer

Paul Simon

When you’re weary, feeling small,
When tears are in your eyes
I will dry them all
I’m on your side
When times get rough
And friends just can’t be found
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

When you’re down and out
When you’re on the street
When evening falls so hard
I will comfort you
I’ll take your part
When darkness comes
And pain is all around
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

Sail on, silvergirl
Sail on by
Your time has come to shine
All your dreams are on their way
See how they shine
If you need a friend
I’m sailing right behind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind

Sending

Amanda Hines

Benediction

Amanda Hines

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.