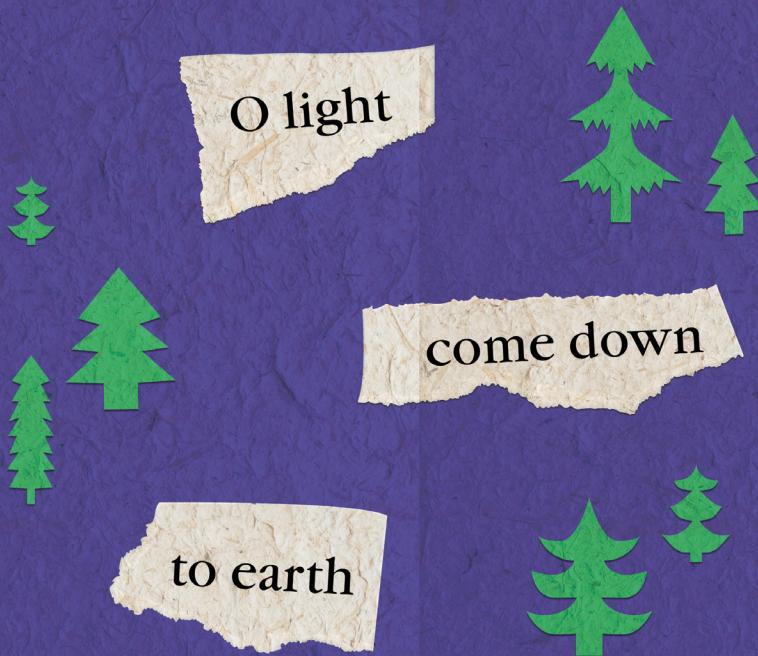


O light

come down

to earth



December 24, 2025 | Christmas Eve

Wilshire Baptist Church

December 24, 2025  
Christmas Eve  
4:00 p.m.  
(For 11 p.m. service, see page 7)

### Chiming of the Hour

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

### Welcome to Worshipers

Heather Mustain

### Prelude

*Away in a Manger*  
Chelsea Hopkins, Horn

arr. Gordon Schuster

### Preparing the Nativity

Alice Boyd, Ana Boyd, Betty Sue Bunch, Bobby Bunch, Charlie Bunch,  
Vivian Donovan, Henri Gillett, Joel Justice, Jonathan Justice, Rinnah Justice,  
Hamilton Lee, June McNicholas, Lena McNicholas, Annie Murray,  
Drew Murray, Stella Scheuermann, Caroline Skinner, Emily Skinner

### +Processional Carol 103

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDE LIS

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rebecca, David, Crosby, Wilson, Elijah and Elton Cole

### +Christ Candle Litany

One: We have walked in the darkness, we have waited with great anticipation.

All: **We have remembered God's promises, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy and love.**

One: We have called for light to come down to earth, for suffering to be met with mercy and healing.

All: **Behold, Christ is near!**

One: We light the Christ candle as God has come to us as a child, to dwell with us and to walk with us.

All: **Be not afraid! For the light of Christ is illuminating the world, on earth as it is in heaven!**

One: Let us cry out once again:

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

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

**The Word Becomes Flesh**

Betty Sue Bunch

During Advent, Wilshire celebrates the incarnation by assembling the Nativity or crèche — a model of the birthplace of Jesus. Each week, our children and youth bring forward new elements to complete the scene. Tonight, on Christmas Eve, the Christ child is laid in the manger. “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.”—John 1:14

**+Gospel Story** — Luke 2:1-16

Amanda Hines

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. 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.**

**Musical Meditation**

*Light of the Stable*  
Dawn Sheaffer, Elle Sheaffer and Molly Shepard  
Darren DeMent, guitar; Michael Sheaffer, piano

Steve and Elizabeth Rhymer

Hail! Hail! To the newborn King;  
Let our voices sing him our praises.  
Hail! Hail! To the guiding light  
That brought us tonight to our Savior.

Halle! Hallelujah! Halle! Hallelujah!  
Halle! Hallelujah! Halle! Hallelujah!

Come now, let it shine so bright  
To the knowing light of the stable.  
Feel close to the child so dear,  
Cast aside your fear and be thankful.

**Christmas Blessing**

Timothy Peoples

**Musical Meditation**

*For to Us a Child Is Born*  
Amy, Audrey and Katherine Pottkotter

Keith and Kristyn Getty  
/arr. Merivil

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
On those walking through the dark, a heavenly light has broken.  
Oh, what joy he brings to us a feast of hope and wonder;  
From our burden we are freed, as we receive the Savior.

Oh, sing gloria, sing gloria in excelsis. Sing gloria, sing gloria!

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
And the government will be upon his blameless shoulders.  
And his name shall be called All Wonderful and Counselor,  
Mighty God and Prince of Peace, our Everlasting Father.

For to us a child is born, a Son of God is given.  
Of his reign and of his peace, there'll never be an ending.  
He will be on David's throne, and there uphold the kingdom.  
And with truth and righteousness, forever rule the nations.

**Christmas Prayer**

Katie Murray

## 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*  
Wayne Mkhize, tenor

Adolphe Adam

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 appeared 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! Oh hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born, O night divine.

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 power 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 every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven 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 on Christmas carols

arr. Jeff Brummel

As you leave the Sanctuary tonight, offerings may be placed in the offering receptacles to support hurricane disaster relief for Jamaica and Cuba through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.



**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.

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December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

11:00 p.m.

## Chiming of the Hour

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

## Welcome to Worshipers

Timothy Peoples

## Prelude

*Away in a Manger*  
Chelsea Hopkins, Horn

arr. Gordon Schuster

## The Word Becomes Flesh

Miriam McClung

During Advent, Wilshire celebrates the incarnation by assembling the Nativity or crèche — a model of the birthplace of Jesus. Each week, our children and youth bring forward new elements to complete the scene. Tonight, on Christmas Eve, the Christ child is laid in the manger. “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.”—John 1:14

## +Processional Carol 103

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

## Lighting the Christ Candle

Claire Flores

## +Christ Candle Litany

Claire Flores

One: We have walked in the darkness, we have waited with great anticipation.

All: **We have remembered God’s promises, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy and love.**

One: We have called for light to come down to earth, for suffering to be met with mercy and healing.

All: **Behold, Christ is near!**

One: We light the Christ candle as God has come to us as a child, to dwell with us and to walk with us.

All: **Be not afraid! For the light of Christ is illuminating the world, on earth as it is in heaven!**

One: Let us cry out once again:

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

**Response****O Come, All Ye Faithful**

ADESTE FIDELES

Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,  
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?  
**O** come, let us adore him; **O** come, let us adore him;  
**O** come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

**Scripture Collage** — Micah 5 and Luke 1

Ariel Merivil and Amanda Hines

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. 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. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth. And the angel 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

**Carol 132***It Came upon the Midnight Clear*  
Stanzas 1 and 4

CAROL

**Gospel Reading** — Luke 2:1-16

Georgia McKee and Darren DeMent

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. 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.

### Christmas Prayer

Maggie Morey

### Anthem

*What Child Is This?*  
Youth Choir and Alumni

Howard Helvey

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
    On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
    While shepherds watch are keeping?  
    This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
    Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
    The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate  
    Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
    The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;  
    The cross be borne for me, for you.  
    Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,  
    The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
    Come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
    Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
    Raise, raise the song on high.  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
    Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
    The babe, the son of Mary!

### A Reading — Two Poems by Wendell Berry

Maggie Morey

To go in the dark with a light is to know the light.  
To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight,  
and find that the dark, too, blooms and sings,  
and is traveled by dark feet and dark wings.

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

—“To Know the Dark” and “The Peace of Wild Things”

+Gospel Reading — John 1:1–5, 10–14

Julie Girards

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 overcome 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!**

**Christmas Homily**

Timothy Peoples

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

All followers of Christ 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.

The communion bread is gluten free

**Music During Communion**

*O Holy Night*  
 Wayne Mkhize, tenor

Adolphe Adam

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 appeared 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! Oh 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 the 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 power and glory evermore proclaim.

### 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;  
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 every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven 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 on Christmas carols

arr. Jeff Brummel

As you leave the Sanctuary tonight, offerings may be placed in the offering receptacles to support hurricane disaster relief for Jamaica and Cuba through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.



4316 Abrams Road | Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214-452-3100 | [wilshirebc.org](http://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.*



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