

O light



come down

to earth

December 28, 2025 | First Sunday after Christmas
Wilshire Baptist Church

Preparing for worship

The days after Christmas settle quietly. Anticipation fades, gatherings shrink and the house glows with decorations, though the mood shifts. Some feel relief; others sense a gentle ache. What lingers is not clarity but a mix of gratitude and weariness, joy and worry. We return to ordinary days carrying more than we realize. Even here, God draws near.

The Christian tradition recognizes this quiet turning. Howard Thurman reminds us that when the angels' song grows silent, and the shepherds return to their fields, the work of Christmas truly begins. Christmas is not held in a single day. Its meaning grows as it settles into daily life, where faith is shaped not by spectacle but by presence.

This is the faith formed in small moments: taking down decorations one ornament at a time, returning to work or school and washing dishes after guests have gone home. It is shaped by choosing patience over hurry, kindness over irritation and attentiveness over distraction. These are not dramatic acts, but faithful ones. In such ordinary days, the meaning of Christmas learns how to stay.

Today's worship honors this gentle unfolding.

Familiar music invites us to pause, not to rush. Old melodies and carols help us find our way back to the story — slowly, without pressure. When words fail, these songs hold us, offering a place to rest in what we trust. Silence is welcome, too, giving us space to breathe, to listen and to notice God's nearness.

Poet Joy Harjo offers a simple invitation: "Remember the sky that you were born under." In worship, remembering is not about longing for the past. It is a way of finding our place again; it grounds us. We recall who we are, where we stand and what has already been given to us. Christians trust that Christ entered the world beneath the same sky that covers us now, sharing our world, our vulnerability and the patterns of our ordinary days.

As you come to worship, you bring what this week has given you. The joy of Christmas remains — steady — carrying us into what comes next.

May this service offer space to breathe, sing, listen and trust that the God who came near at Christmas is still near now.

—Abbey Adcox



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.

On the cover: Advent art by Wilshire member Abi Hrbacek.

December 28, 2025
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

Katie Murray

Prelude

The Son of Mary
(based on a Catalan carol)

arr. Derek Branscombe

+Congregational Song

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem
No. 164

KINGSFOLD

+Call to Worship

Marianne Cline

One: The joy of Christmas remains, carrying us into the days ahead.
We come before God, the One who gathers us and does not let us go.

All: We rest in the love that has held us.

One: We come to Christ, love made flesh, walking with us beyond the holy night.

All: We trust the grace made near.

One: We come with the Spirit, breathing peace into this place.

All: We open our hearts to God's presence.

One: Come, let us worship —

All: the God who carries us.

+Response in Song

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

KINGSFOLD

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.**

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

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that God has shown them according to God's mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
For the LORD said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,"
and God became their savior
in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but God's presence that saved them;
in God's love and pity it was God who redeemed them;
God lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Offertory

Away in a Manger

arr. Heather Sorenson

+Gospel Reading — Matthew 2:13–33

Darren DeMent

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

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	<i>What Child Is This</i> No. 148	GREENSLEEVES
Message	“We Are Here”	Amanda Hines
Anthem	<i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i> Lee Henry, Taylor Henry, Candy McComb	arr. David Angerman
<p>Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!</p> <p>While shepherds kept their watching over silent flocks by night, Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.</p> <p>The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth, Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.</p> <p>Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born; And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn!</p>		
Prayers of the People		Charlie Fuller
Silence	We pause in silence to reflect and to be attentive to the Spirit of God.	
The Lord’s Prayer	<p>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.</p>	
+Congregational Song	<i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i> No. 126	REGENT SQUARE
Sharing of Decisions		Amanda Hines
Benediction		Amanda Hines
Postlude	<i>Christmas Joy</i>	George Blake
	Candy McComb, music director Cindy Fuller, guest organist	

Meet today's worship leaders

Steve Brookshire joined Wilshire in 1980 and met his wife, Gail, here. Their family at Wilshire includes their adult son, Andy, daughter-in-law, Jessica, and grandson, Callum, who is two. Steve is a deacon and a member of Epiphany Class. He is a principal with Pegasus-Ablon, a real estate investment and development firm.

Marianne Cline has been a Wilshire member since 2000 and is married to Bob. Marianne attends Whosoever Wilshire Sunday School Class and is a trained Stephen Minister.

Candy McComb joined Wilshire in 2017 and serves on staff as children's choir coordinator. She also sings in Sanctuary Choir, co-directs Nova and serves as a deacon. Candy is married to Vic Henry, and together they direct Odyssey Class and chair the Lay Support Team for Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee. Candy sings today with her and Vic's adult sons, **Taylor Henry** and **Lee Henry**. Taylor, who is married to Rachel, is on the faculty at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, where he teaches on sports, media and popular culture. Lee works in fundraising for UT-Austin's Dell Medical School and held a similar role at SMU's Perkins School of Theology. Fun fact: Candy, Taylor and Lee were all members of the Texas All-State Choir as high schoolers.



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.

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)
- Katie Murray, Minister of Pastoral Care and to Senior Adults (3129)

Finance

- Shaffon Alexander, Director of Finance (3131)

Food Services

- Haley Garcia, Food Service Director (3117)
- Luke Munion, Prep Cook
- Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, Steward

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)
- Amanda Hines, Pastoral Resident (3154)
- George Mason, Senior Pastor Emeritus and Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director (3133)
- Georgia McKee, Pastoral Resident (3152)
- Jordann McMahan, Pastoral Resident (3155)
- Maggie Morey, Pastoral Resident (3153)

Senior Pastor

- Chelsea Hopkins, Executive Assistant (3132)
- Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor (3132)

Spiritual Formation

- Kelly Akins, Minister to Preschoolers (3139)
- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Carole McClung, Spiritual Formation Ministry Assistant (3130)
- Katie Murray, Minister of Pastoral Care and to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)

Tapestry



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements
December 28, 2025

Holiday closures

■ Except for today's service, the building will be closed and staff on vacation through Thursday, Jan. 1. On Friday, Jan. 2, staff 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.

■ The Columbarium is open today, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., and will return to regular hours, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., on Friday, Jan. 2.

Year-end giving

■ While the church office is closed, checks can be dropped into the secure black mailbox accessible from the south parking lot. They will be retrieved in time to count as 2025 giving.

■ Mailed checks must be postmarked by Dec. 31.

■ Make online gifts before midnight Dec. 31.

■ Stock gifts must arrive in our Fidelity account by Dec. 30. Email Shaffon Alexander at salexander@wilshirebc.org for account information and to let her know about the gift.

Wednesdays on break

■ **Wednesday Night Live** dinner and faith formation programming will resume Jan. 7.

■ The first **Lunch & Learn** of 2026 will be held Jan. 7. All are invited to Community Hall the first and third Wednesdays every month at 11:30 a.m. for a buffet lunch (\$10) followed by Bible study.

Debby Burton to be honored Jan. 4



Longtime Wilshire staff member Debby Burton retires this week and will be recognized next Sunday, Jan. 4, during the 11 a.m. service. After worship, a reception will be held for Debby in James Gallery. Debby worked 28 years at

Wilshire, most of that time as executive assistant to the senior pastor, working with George Mason for 24 years and then with Timothy Peoples. In 2024 she scaled back to part-time and became assistant for Pathways to Ministry.

Save the date for Family Day of Service with Rise Against Hunger



Join us Monday, Jan. 19, the MLK Day holiday, as we partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack healthy meals for those in need from 10 a.m. to noon in Com-

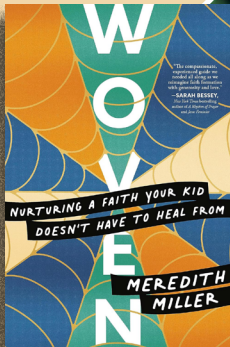
munity Hall. All ages are welcome. There are opportunities to serve while seated and opportunities for preschoolers and elementary age children to serve. A few volunteers are needed to help set up before and clean up after the event. All volunteers will need to register and complete a waiver at events.riseagainsthunger.org/wilshirebaptist2026.



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

Meredith Miller

Author, speaker, expert on faith formation in children



Meredith Miller

is a pastor and parent who helps grownups, and the kids they love, engage with faith in ways that are life-giving, fun and a fit for their real lives.

Sunday, Jan. 11

9:45 a.m.: Adult Sunday School, McIver Chapel

Noon: Lunch Talk with Q&A, Community Hall

REGISTER
FOR LUNCH



Rental Assistance Program



Wilshire's Rental and Utility Assistance Program will open for 2026 in late January. If you are interested in serving as an intake volunteer — whether you are new or returning — please let us know by scanning the QR code and completing our online form. Plan to join us for orientation on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. in Room 1205-L.

Advent art show ends Jan. 4



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.

Jan. 10 Advocacy event



Immigration, religious freedom and reproductive justice are some of the topics to be covered at Advocacy for Action: Responding to the Texas Legislature, a workshop presented by Texas Impact on Saturday, Jan.

10. The event at Northaven United Methodist Church will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn more and register by Jan. 2 at northaven.org/events.

Wilshire Welcome meets Jan. 11

Wilshire Welcome, a one-hour session designed to help guests and new members learn what Wilshire is all about, will meet Sunday, Jan. 11, at 9:45 a.m. in the Prayer Room (Room 1100B) near McIver Chapel. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Annual Church Conference

Make plans to attend our annual church conference in Community Hall after 11 a.m. worship on Sunday, Jan. 18. We'll adopt a budget, elect deacons and committees and hear updates about the church. Lunch will be provided.

Monthly service opportunities

■ A Wilshire group serves the fourth Friday morning each month at the **Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation Mobile Food Pantry**. Contact: Charlie Estee (cesteedallas@gmail.com)

■ Wilshire volunteers serve as food pantry assistants at the **Wilkinson Center** the third Tuesday afternoon each month. Contact: Cindy Estee (cesteedallas@aol.com)

■ Wilshire volunteers serve lunch at the **Stewpot** the second Thursday every month. Contact: David Cossum (dc@cossum.com)

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor to discuss *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel García Márquez. Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net)

WILSHIRE 
ADVENTURERS

Adventurers movie on Jan. 20

The Wilshire Adventurers will enjoy an afternoon movie on Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. in Community Hall. This free event includes popcorn, cookies, drinks and a screening of *The River of No Return*, starring Marilyn Monroe and Robert Mitchum. Adventurers is a fellowship group for anyone 60 and up.



Women of Wilshire

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Thursday, Jan. 8 | Noon | 1205-L | *We All Live Here* by Jojo Moyes. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

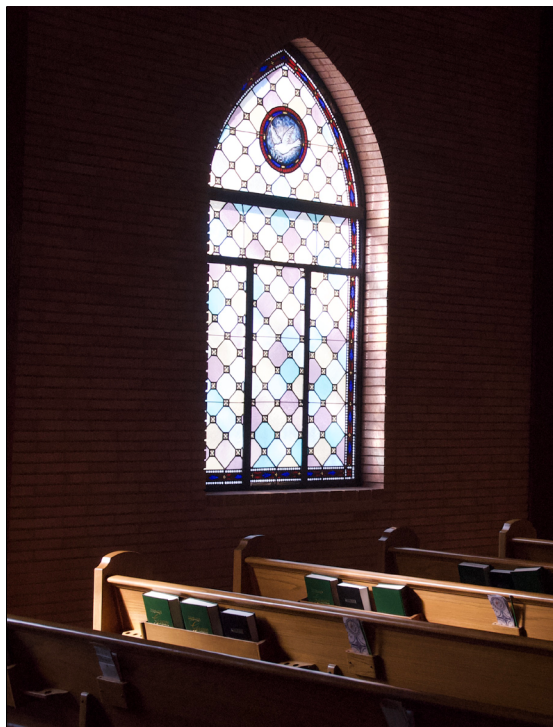
■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Jan. 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. Contact: Debby Burton (debbyb0929@gmail.com)

■ **WOW's 2026 retreat** will be held Feb. 20–22 at the Prothro Retreat Center at Lake Texoma. Register at wilshirebc.org/events/wow-retreat-2026.

Someone to talk with.

If you're facing a life challenge and would like a friend to walk alongside you for a season of healing, perhaps you would benefit from a Stephen Minister. This ministry pairs trained lay people with those in need of confidential companionship during times of crisis. To reach out, email stephenministry@wilshirebc.org or call 214-452-3176.

stephen
MINISTRY.



9 a.m. Worship

**Weekly | McIver Chapel
Resumes Jan. 4**

"This new service will provide a sacred space where we can step away from the busyness and noise of daily life to slow down, be still and cultivate a deeper connection with God."

—Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples



Childcare available for preschoolers

This Week

Through Thursday, Jan. 1

■ Staff Holiday, Building Closed

Sunday, Dec. 28

■ Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 4

■ Worship, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.

■ Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

■ Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.

■ Retirement Reception for Debby Burton,
James Gallery, noon

Monday, Jan. 5

■ Wilshire Winds, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

■ New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.

■ Lunch & Learn, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.

■ Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.

■ Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.

■ KidConnect, 6 p.m.

■ Preschool Music & Missions, 6 p.m.

■ WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.

■ Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.



Special Events June 13 & 14

THANK YOU FOR GIVING

Your gifts are changing lives inside and outside our walls. Here are some ways to make a financial contribution to Wilshire.

ONLINE. Set up a recurring or one-time gift charged to your debit or credit card or as an ACH from your checking account. Get started at wilshirebc.org/give.

REALM CONNECT APP. Easily make gifts and see past giving on your mobile device. Available at your device's app store. Find download links at wilshirebc.org/realms.

AUTOMATIC BANK PAY. Visit your bank's website and set up Wilshire as a payee. The bank will send the church a check.

MAIL. Send to Finance Director Shaffon Alexander's attention at Wilshire.

TEXT. Text WILSHIRE and a dollar amount (ex: WILSHIRE 50) to 73256.

DONATE STOCKS. Contact Shaffon to learn how to donate appreciated stocks.

FROM YOUR IRA. For those over 70.5 years old, tax-free IRA gifts offer a financial benefit and may reduce future tax burdens.



Scan code with your smartphone camera to make an electronic contribution.

At Wilshire, we use a one-fund approach to giving called the Unified Budget. Your gifts support the basic mission, ministry and operations of the church. Once the Unified Budget is fulfilled, gifts overflow into visionary aspects of our mission.