



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

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

Katie Murray

Prelude

“Ye people, rend your hearts”
and *“If with all your hearts”* (from *Elijah*)
Kathryn Piña, soloist

Felix Mendelssohn

Ye people, rend your hearts, and not your garments,
For your transgressions; Even as Elijah hath sealed the heavens
Through the word of God. I therefore say to ye, Forsake your idols,
Return to God; For he is slow to anger,
And merciful, and kind, and gracious, and repenteth him of the evil.

If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me,
Thus saith our God. Ye shall ever surely find me, thus saith our God.

Call to Worship

Ariel Merivil

One: Who is it that you seek?

All: We seek the Lord our God.

One: Do you seek God with all your heart?

All: We seek God with open hearts.

One: Do you seek God with all your soul?

All: We seek God with weary souls.

One: Do you seek God with all your mind?

All: We seek God for clarity and wisdom.

One: Do you seek God with all your strength?

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

**All: We seek God knowing all our lives depend on God.
To whom shall we go?
Christ has the words of eternal life,
and we have believed and have come to know
that he is the Holy One of God.**

One: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ,

All: O God of endless glory.

+Congregational Song

I Take the Cross of Jesus Christ
No. 168

KINGSFOLD

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Jordann McMahan

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near —
a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains,
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

...

Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
 and relenting from punishment.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the LORD your God?
Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her canopy.
Between the vestibule and the altar,
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?' "

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!

Meditation

Wayfaring Stranger
Elle Sheaffer, Darren DeMent, Ariel Merivil

American Folk Song

I am a poor wayfaring stranger, traveling through this land of woe;
There is no sickness, toil, or danger in that bright world to which I go.
I'm going home to see my father, I'm home no more to roam;
I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather round me, I know my way is steep and rough;
But pretty fields lie just beyond me, where souls redeemed their vigils keep.
I'm going there to see my mother, she said she'd meet me when I come;
I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home.

I want to wear a crown of glory when I get home to that bright land.
I want to shout salvations story, in concert with that blood-washed band;
I'm going there to see meet Savior, to sing his praises forevermore.
I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home.

Homily

Timothy Peoples

Prayer of Confession

Heather Mustain

One: Gracious God, as we begin this Lenten journey, we confess our neglect of you and our faith. We have longed too much for the comforts of this world, making idols of nation, money, and power. We have loved the gifts more than the giver, building walls instead of better relationships, failing to follow Jesus to the poor, the destitute, the stranger.

All: In your mercy, help us to see that all we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quicksands, but you are a mountain; that they are shifting, but you are an anchor. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our faith so we can leave this wilderness season with a deeper understanding of who you are and whose we are in you. We seek your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our loving Savior.

Litany of Confession

Lord, we have taken our blessings for granted ... **forgive us our sin.**
We have mistaken the finite for the Infinite ... **forgive us our sin.**
We have settled for something less than whole ... **forgive us our sin.**
We have celebrated what is less than beautiful ... **forgive us our sin.**
We have lived in ways less than loving ... **forgive us our sin.**
Forgive us, Lord, for we have sinned ...

(We pause for silent confession.)

Words of Hope and Assurance

Remember and receive these hopeful words from John 8:31-32, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." We receive God's truth and God's grace, and we accept the freedom God provides.

We trust again this day in God, who is merciful.
We trust again this day in God, who is holy.
We trust again this day in God, who delivers us.
We trust again this day in God, who keeps.

God of grace, help us seek you and the truth you intend for us today. Let us not be distracted by worldly pursuits or pleasures. Help us to focus our hearts and minds on you and your Word, read and proclaimed.

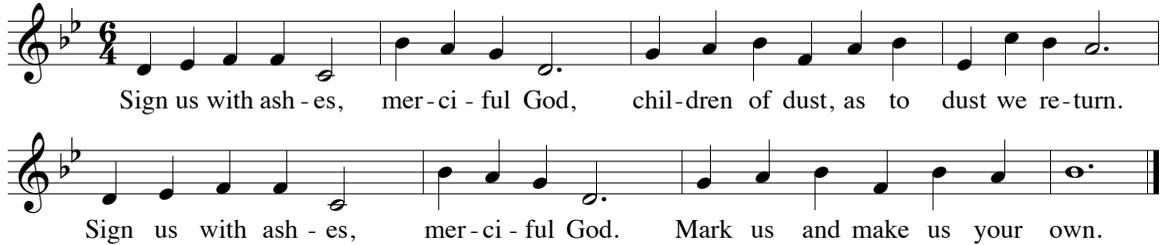
Amen.

+Congregational Song

Sign Us With Ashes

PHOENIX

The choir will sing the verses.
Please join in singing the refrain.



Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of dust, as to dust we re - turn.
Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Imposition of Ashes

As the music begins, you may use the center aisles to receive the imposition of ashes.

If you do not wish to receive the imposition of ashes, you may exit along the outside aisles.

Please leave in silence.



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

- 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)
- 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)

ROOTED

Remembering Who and Whose You Are

LENT 2026 / WILSHIRE BAPTIST CHURCH

THese days, it's easy to feel unsure about things we once knew or felt confident about. Uncertainty seems to shape our days, leaving us to question our relationships, our faith, and even our sense of self. We may feel adrift, searching for steady ground.

In moments like these, it is good to become rooted again in truths that do not waver — to remember the steady presence that carries us when everything feels unsettled.

In that remembering, we find our footing and our rest. We are held, and we are not alone.

This season is not about having all the answers. It is about remembering who we are and whose we are and trusting the hope that holds us fast.

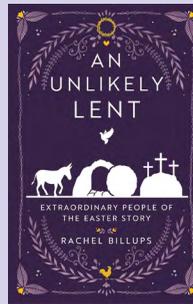
Key dates

■ **Good Friday | April 3** | Service at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

■ **Easter | April 5** | Services in the Sanctuary at 8:30 and 11 a.m. plus a Sunrise Service at White Rock Lake. The 9 a.m. Chapel service will not meet on Easter Sunday.

wilshirebc.org/lent

Lenten book focus



All are invited to read along as we study *An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story* by Rachel Billups. This new book invites us to consider the events of the Easter story through the “side characters” who witnessed them.

Many Sunday School classes will use the book, but it is also appropriate for individual study. The book is available at Amazon and other sellers.

Lenten playlist

Our eclectic Lenten playlist can be found on the digital music service Spotify. Search Spotify for “Rooted - Wilshire Lent 2026” or find the link at wilshirebc.org/lent.

Road to Resurrection

Palm Sunday, March 29 | Join us in traveling the path of Jesus during his last week on earth in this interactive Lenten event. Older preschoolers through 5th graders will attend during Sunday School; open to all from 9 to 9:30 a.m. More information to come.