



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026
9:00 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent

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

Ariel Merivil

Centering Silence

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

Call to Worship

Ariel Merivil

One: Here, at the outer limits of Lent,

All: we are called to walk:

One: to the paper-thin edges which cut us to the soul;

All: to the workplaces which weary us;

One: to the people who confuse us;

All: to the faith which threatens us.

One: Here, at the corner of Steadfast Love and Faithfulness, we are called to remember:

All: when our unease is great and sorrow is in our midst

One: When the unknown approaches ever faster,

All: May we remember who and whose we are. Amen.

+Congregational Song

Give Me Jesus
No. 546

GIVE ME JESUS

Stanza 1: solo; **Stanzas 2-4: all**

+Gospel Reading — Matthew 4:1-11

Timothy Peoples

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only the Lord.’” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

Timothy Peoples

Prayer Practice — Call to Confession

Darren DeMent

All: Holy and infinite God, we confess our need for you. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are lost and need your guidance. Hear our prayers, O Lord.

Music for Meditation

Come Tear Down the Walls/Draw Me Nearer
Ariel Merivil

Common Hymnal/
Fanny Crosby

Come and tear down the walls I've built up, every wall I've built up.
For you deserve every piece of my heart, every piece of my heart.

Lord, I am trusting that you are a faithful father and all that you have, it is good.
You're a generous giver, your love's like no other won't you come and break through to me.

Over and over and over again, I am bringing my heart to you with open hands.
Closer and closer, you're drawing me in as the depths of my heart lay before you again.

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me; But I long to rise
In the arms of faith, and be closer drawn to thee.

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.

There are depths of love, that I cannot know 'til I cross the narrow sea.
There are heights of joy, that I may not reach 'til I rest in peace with thee.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: We trust in God,

All: Whose mercy knows no end.

One: We trust in God,

All: Whose love is healing all brokenness.

One: We trust in God,

All: Whose grace is sufficient for every need.

Sending

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

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'd like to learn more about what's happening at Wilshire, scan for the latest news and events.



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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.

Cover art: *A Choice*, Lauren Wright Pittman, lewpstudio.com. **Call to Worship:** Adapted from Rev. Thom Shuman's "Call to Worship at the Start of Lent" from *Lectionary Liturgies*. **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.