



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter

Preparing for worship

*What has been before will continue to be,
and what has been done before will continue
to be done —
there's nothing new under the sun!*
—Ecclesiastes 1:9

Sometimes we feel just like the writer of Ecclesiastes. We get stuck in our daily routine. Everything seems predictable, safe, perhaps a little dull. “So what else is new?” we say. We become oblivious to the possibility of change, of experiencing something a little different. Our comfort level is perfectly stable.

Well, every now and then something happens to shake us out of our complacency. What could be more dramatic than the sun’s light being extinguished in the middle of the day? Yet that is what we are expecting to experience during tomorrow’s solar eclipse.

It is as if God were trying to get our attention. As the psalmist writes, “The heavens herald your

glory, O God, and the skies display your handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). “Wake up,” God is telling us. “Look around you, and sense my presence.”

It may be hard to imagine anything topping this celestial display in terms of proclaiming something new under the sun. Yet, just last Sunday our church celebrated the most astounding manifestation of God’s greatness imaginable: as the youth described in Mark’s Gospel proclaimed, “He has risen; he is not here” (Mark 16:6).

This Jesus, the Christ, was God made flesh, who lived among us, and whose death and resurrection established a new relationship between us and God.

As the apostle Paul writes, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV) This is “something new” that we can indeed celebrate.

—*Ralph Manuel*



4316 Abrams Road | Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214-452-3100 | wilshirebc.org

Building a Community of Faith Shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ

Partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Member, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

On the cover: *Psalm 133*, Kyle Ragsdale. Used by permission. kyleragsdale.com

April 7, 2024
11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Easter

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

Heather Mustain

Prelude

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart
Jeff Brummel and Crysta Jones, piano four-hands

arr. Mark Hayes

Opening Sentences

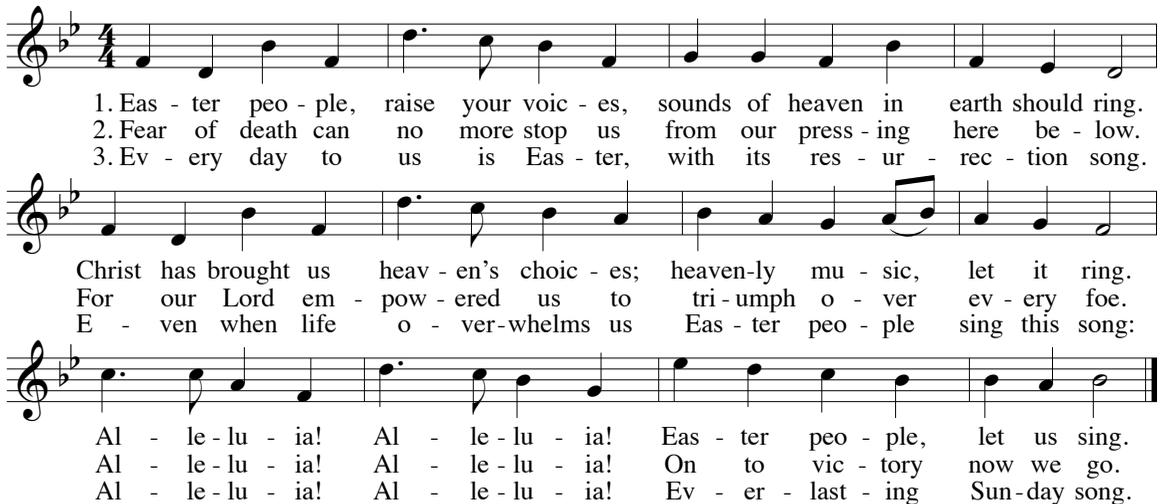
Bob Coleman

O God, you have brought us into this new day. A day of Easter rejoicing! A day to sing your praises. A day to pray for one another. Lord, as we worship you, may your love overflow from our hearts with beautiful sounds as we sing you an everlasting song of praise.

+Congregational Song

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

REGENT SQUARE



1. Eas - ter peo - ple, raise your voic - es, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our press - ing here be - low.
3. Ev - ery day to us is Eas - ter, with its res - ur - rec - tion song.

Christ has brought us heav - en's choic - es; heav - en - ly mu - sic, let it ring.
For our Lord em - pow - ered us to tri - umph o - ver ev - ery foe.
E - ven when life o - ver - whelms us Eas - ter peo - ple sing this song:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter peo - ple, let us sing.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! On to vic - tory now we go.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Ev - er - last - ing Sun - day song.

+All congregants who are able are invited to stand.
Hearing devices are available in the Narthex and South Atrium.

See how good, how pleasant it is for God's people to live together as one! It is like precious oil on Aaron's head running down on his beard, running down to the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Mount Hermon, falling on the hills of Zion. For that is where YHWH bestows the blessing — life that never ends.

Choral Offertory

How Great Thou Art
New Song Community Choir
Sarah Stafford, director
Crysta Jones, piano

arr. Lloyd Larson

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Prayers of the People

Timothy Peoples

**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.**

Missions Moment

Ellen Holden Di Giosia

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Ellen Holden Di Giosia

All followers of Christ are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, whether you are a Wilshire member or not. The bread used this morning is gluten free.

Passing of the Bread

The Lone, Wild Bird

arr. Wilbur Held

The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
Is still with thee, nor leaves thy sight.
And I am thine! I rest in thee.
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.

The ends of earth are in thy hand,
The sea's dark deep and far off land.
And I am thine! I rest in thee.
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me. Amen.

—Henry R. MacFadyen

Passing of the Cup

Aria

Paul Manz

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

+Congregational Song

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
No. 96

HOUSTON

+Epistle Reading — 1 John 1:1–2:2

Emily Reavis

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, and seen with our eyes, and have looked at and touched with our hands: the Word, who is Life — this is the subject of our letter. That life came to be; we saw it and bear witness to it. We proclaim to you the eternal life which was with Abba God and was manifested to us. What we have seen and heard we declare to you, so that you may be one with us — as we are one with Abba God and with the Only Begotten, Jesus Christ. We write this to fulfill our joy. This, then, is the message we heard from Jesus and declare to you: God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all. If we say we have intimacy with God while still living in darkness, we are liars and do not live in truth. But if we live in the light, as God is in the light, we are one with each other, and the blood of Jesus, the Only Begotten, purifies us from all sin. If we say we are without sin, we lie, and the truth is not in us. But if we admit our sins, God, the faithful and just One, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all injustice. If we say we have not sinned, we call God a liar and show that God's Word is not in us. My little ones, I am writing this to keep you from sin. But if anyone should sin, we have an Advocate with God — Jesus Christ, who is just. Jesus is the full payment for our sins, and not for our sins only, but for those of the whole world.

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 “Despite Appearances” Timothy Peoples

Silent Reflection

We pause in silence to reflect and to be attentive to the Spirit of God

+Congregational Song *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* HYMN TO JOY
No. 217

Sharing of Decisions Timothy Peoples

Benediction Timothy Peoples

Postlude *Hymn to Joy* arr. Albert L. Travis



Connect with Wilshire. Scan the QR code using your smartphone camera to make a financial contribution, fill out our online guest card or submit a prayer request. You may also use the response card or offering envelope found in the pew rack. These items can be placed in the offering plate or in one of the secure offering boxes located near the Sanctuary exits.

Meet today's worship leaders

Bob Coleman and his wife, Judy, have attended Wilshire since 1975 and are members of Compass Class. They have two adult children and three grandchildren. Bob is a deacon, performed in the last two Faith in 3D productions and served on the search committee that brought Timothy Peoples to Wilshire. Bob fully retired last summer after 54-plus years practicing law.

Ellen Holden Di Giosia began in February as coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas. She holds a master of divinity degree from Truett Seminary at Baylor University and is currently pursuing a doctor of ministry degree at SMU's Perkins School of Theology. Ellen was a founding member of Texas Baptist Women in Ministry and has held ministerial positions at churches in Tennessee and Texas. CBF Texas is one of 15 state and regional entities that relate to the national CBF, Wilshire's primary partner in global missions work.

Susan Leonard joined Wilshire in 2005. She is a deacon, a member of Discovery Sunday School Class and sings in Sanctuary Choir. Susan works as a licensed counselor and marriage and family therapist.

Emily Reavis is the daughter of Ben and Kristi Reavis and sister to Owen Reavis. Emily is a seventh grader at Solar Preparatory School for Girls, where she plays volleyball and basketball. She also sings in the Greater Dallas Choral Society Brio Chorus. At Wilshire, Emily is active in student ministry and sings in Youth Choir.

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)
- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

Early Childhood Learning Center

- Kelly Akins, ECLC Assistant Director and Curriculum Specialist (3139)
- Carole McClung, ECLC Administrative Assistant (3115)
- Ramona Randle, ECLC Director (3140)

Finance

- Lori Gooden, Director of Finance (3131)

Food Services

- Luke Munion, Food Service Staff
- Haley Robinson, Food Service Director (3117)
- Gillian Tinsley, Food Service Staff
- Elias Vasquez, Food Service Staff
- Leyvi Vasquez, Food Service Staff
- Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, Food Service Staff

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
- Merik Gillett, Operations Director (3146)
- Eric Mirochna, IT Manager (3136)

Pathways to Ministry

- Debby Burton, Pathways to Ministry Assistant (3158)
- Charlie Fuller, Pathways to Ministry Director and Coach in Residence (3123)
- George Mason, Senior Pastor Emeritus and Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director (3133)

Senior Pastor

- Chelsea Hopkins, Executive Assistant (3132)
- Geri McKenzie, Executive Director of Administration (3159)
- Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor (3132)

Spiritual Formation

- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Staci Langley, Childcare Coordinator
- Katie Murray, Minister to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)
- Sarah Yodh, Spiritual Formation Coordinator (3130)

Tapestry



News & Announcements
April 7, 2024



Watch the eclipse at Wilshire

Join Wilshire friends to experience the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Prayer Garden and James Gallery. The church will provide NASA-approved viewing glasses and snacks, and Darren DeMent has curated a special eclipse playlist. Bring your own lawn chair. No reservation necessary; we have plenty of glasses. The partial eclipse will start at 12:23 p.m., and the total eclipse will start at 1:40. Cloudy or not, we'll still have fun! Hosted by the Churchwide Social Committee and the Adventurers.

Register by today for April 12 Marriage Connections

Author and life coach Christine Hortsman will speak at Marriage Connections on Friday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. Free childcare (infant–grade 6) will be provided while parents enjoy the short program at the church and then have the rest of the night, until 9:30, to themselves. Registration is required by April 7; visit wilshirebc.org/events/marriage-connections.

Single, Adoptive and Foster Care Parents Night Out, April 12

Wilshire will offer free childcare (infant–grade 6) for single, adoptive and foster parents on Friday, April 12, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Registration is required and closes April 7; visit wilshirebc.org/events/pno.

BWIM documentary screening

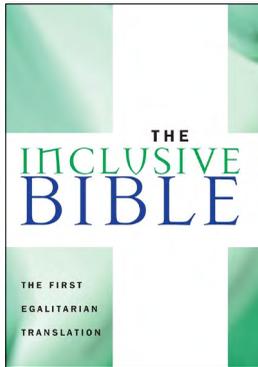
Wilshire will host Baptist Women in Ministry for a documentary screening and conversation on Monday, April 22, at 6 p.m. in Community Hall. The film, *Midwives of a Movement*, chronicles the story of women who boldly birthed a movement to seek more visibility and leadership opportunities for women in Baptist life. BWIM Executive Director Meredith Stone will facilitate a conversation; other panelists to be announced. View the film's trailer at bwim.info/documentary.



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

New Bible translation in worship

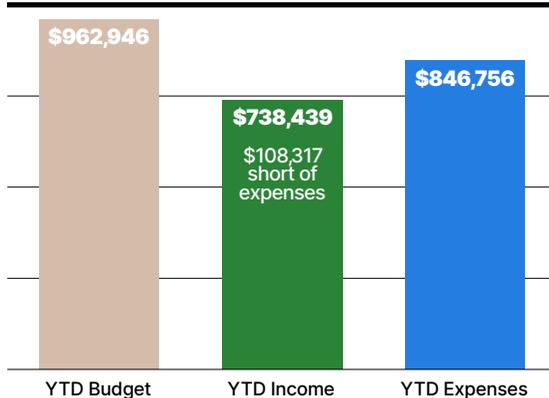
If you've thought Scripture readings in worship have seemed a little different lately, you're not wrong. Wilshire's worship planning team has adopted *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*, published in 2007 by Priests for Equality, an independent group of clergy and laity. The translation's publisher writes: "While this new Bible is certainly an inclusive-language translation, it is much more: it is a re-imagining of the scriptures and our relationship to them. Not merely replacing male pronouns, the translators have rethought what kind of language has built barriers between the text and its readers. Seeking to be faithful to the original languages, they have sought new and non-sexist ways to express the same ancient truths. The Inclusive Bible is a fresh, dynamic translation into modern English, carefully crafted to let the power and poetry of the language shine forth — particularly when read aloud."



Merik Gillett leaving Wilshire staff

Operations Director Merik Gillett is leaving Wilshire's staff to take a position at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Merik began working at Wilshire in June 2022. Executive Director of Administration Geri McKenzie said, "We appreciate the knowledge and expertise that Merik brought to his work of keeping our facilities functioning and in good shape. Our building presents some particular challenges, and Merik never hesitated to roll up his sleeves and tackle any problem that presented itself." The Personnel Committee will work with staff to determine the best way forward in staffing the maintenance and building operations areas.

Unified Budget Update



Pathways Endowment YTD gifts \$18,299
Pathways Endowment March balance \$9,943,236

Recital for Youth Choir pianist

On Friday, April 19, Wilshire Youth Choir accompanist Kamilya Akhmetova will present her final recital as she prepares to complete her performance diploma in organ from SMU's Meadows School of the Arts. The free program of French organ music will begin at 7 p.m. at St. Monica Catholic Church, 9933 Midway Rd.

Request from History Committee

The History Committee is seeking a copy of *Recipes & Remembrances*, a Wilshire cookbook published in 2001 on the occasion of the church's 50th anniversary. If you have a copy and are willing to donate it to Wilshire's archives, please contact Janice Jernberg at jmjernberg1@gmail.com or Max Post at mpost77@yahoo.com.

Subscribe to sermon podcast

Sermons from Timothy Peoples and other Wilshire preachers are available as a weekly audio podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and other podcast platforms. Search for "Wilshire Baptist Church" on your platform of choice.

**Robert P. Jones
Greg Garrett**

The Deep Roots of Racism in the Christian Church

Saturday, April 13

■ 3 p.m. Dialogue
and Book Signing

Sunday, April 14

■ 11 a.m. Worship,
Greg Garrett preaching
■ 12 p.m. Lunch and
Live **Baptist News
Global** Webinar

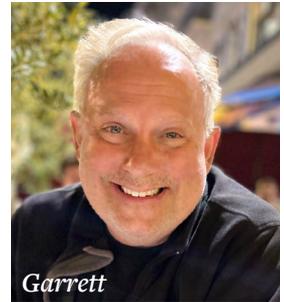
Robert P. Jones and Greg Garrett, both keen observers of religion and culture, will be at Wilshire for a series of free events on April 13 and 14.

On **Saturday, April 13**, Jones and Garrett will be featured in dialogue at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Copies of their books will be available for purchase, and the first 25 people to arrive for the 3 p.m. session will receive one free book from each author.

Garrett will preach in worship on **Sunday, April 14**, and after the service all are invited to Community Hall, where Jones, Garrett and Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples will participate in a live Baptist News Global webinar hosted by BNG Executive Director Mark Wingfield. Lunch will be provided at no cost. The webinar will start at 12:30 p.m. and run 60 to 75 minutes. There will be time for questions from the live audience and online participants.

Childcare will be offered for the Sunday webinar. To register, visit wilshirebc.org/events/jones-garrett.

Robert P. Jones is the president and founder of the Public Religion Research Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to driving conversations at the intersection of religion, culture and politics. He is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling *The Hidden Roots*



of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future (2023), *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* (a 2021 American Book Award winner) and *The End of White Christian America* (2016). Jones writes regularly for outlets such as *The Atlantic*, *Time* and Religion News Service.

Greg Garrett is the Carole McDaniel Hanks Professor of Literature and Culture at Baylor University. One of America's leading voices on religion and culture, his most recent book is *The Gospel According to James Baldwin: What America's Great Prophet Can Teach Us about Life, Love, and Identity*. Garrett is currently writing a book on racial mythologies for Oxford University Press. A seminary-trained Episcopal lay preacher, he is canon theologian in residence at the American Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Paris. Garrett preached at Wilshire in 2020 and 2022.

Someone to talk with.

If you are facing a life challenge and would like to have a spiritual friend to walk alongside you for a season of healing, perhaps you would benefit from a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry pairs trained lay people with individuals in need of Christian companionship during times of life crisis. Wilshire has trained Stephen Ministers available.

To learn more about receiving confidential care from a Stephen Minister, please reach out using our dedicated email address, stephenministry@wilshirebc.org, or call 214-452-3176.

stephen
MINISTRY®

Wilshire to join in gun violence advocacy project

In 2023, Wilshire advocacy partner Texas Impact launched Vidas Robadas (Stolen Lives), a project to reduce gun violence by memorializing its victims through public installations. By displaying T-shirts that name or represent victims in Dallas County, the effort will honor the individuals and make visible the reality of gun violence in our community.



On Sunday, April 28, the Christian Advocacy Committee will host a T-shirt-making event after worship in Community Hall. Sunday School classes may choose to participate during class. Each colored shirt will show the name, age and death date of someone who died of gun violence in the last five years. Each white shirt will represent a suicide and show a crisis hotline number.

Prior to their installation at Wilshire in late May, our 200 shirts will be displayed alongside those from other churches outside the National Rifle Association convention in Dallas on May 18.

The Christian Advocacy Committee and Wilshire's deacons have wholeheartedly agreed for Wilshire to participate in Stolen Lives. The T-shirts we make will be installed along the brick wall north of the church building on Abrams Road. Many other faith communities are joining Texas Impact in this effort, which will culminate next February with a display of all shirts at the state capitol on Gun Violence Reduction Advocacy Day.

We hope you'll make plans to join us on April 28 for this impactful and moving project. Contact Associate Pastor Heather Mustain to learn more (hmustain@wilshirebc.org).



**For everyone.
Now every week.**

**Wednesdays
11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
Community Hall**

All ages are welcome for lunch (\$10 each) and minister-led Bible Study. Pay at the door. No RSVP needed. Contact: Barbara Clayton (bclayton@wilshirebc.org)



■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | April 9 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org).

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | May 2 | Noon | 1205-L | *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org).

■ Join Women of Wilshire for **mahjong** the first Friday each month at 10 a.m. and the second Wednesday each month at 6 p.m. Please sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/mahjong.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

APRIL 10

Koinonia Café | 5 p.m. | **Community Hall** | Buffet-style dinner for the whole family. Pricing at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **April 10:** Cheese tortellini with Alfredo sauce, sautéed chicken, roasted broccoli, creamy tomato soup, salad, garlic bread, tiramisu, jello, cookies. **Kids:** Butter noodles and chicken.

Music, Missions & More | 6 p.m. | **Age 3–Pre-K** | Preschool choir and other fun activities.

KidConnect | 6 p.m. | **K–Grade 6** | Each week is different, with art, music and more.

The Gospel of Aretha Franklin |



April 3–May 1 | 6 p.m. | **Community Hall** | On

Aretha's album *Amazing Grace*, her father, Rev. C.L. Franklin, said "she has never left the church." He chose these words to calm those unhappy with her choice of music styles. Join Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples

as we investigate the songs of the Queen of Soul and notice how in our own secularities we too have not left the sweet soundings of the church — and how each song spoke to the time, ensuring "Good News."

Watershed | 6:30 p.m. | **Grades 7–12** | Bible study and music in the Youth Center.

Sanctuary Choir | 7 p.m. | **Choral Hall** | No audition. New singers welcome.

Childcare for infants to 2-year-olds whose parents are involved in church activities is offered from 6 to 7:15 p.m.

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

FICTION

Brighton Rock, Graham Greene
The Favored Child, Philippa Gregory
Tom Lake, Ann Patchett
The Turtle House, Amanda Churchill

NONFICTION

Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America,
Heather Cox Richardson
A Different Kind of Fast: Feeding Our True Hungers in Lent,
Christine Valters Paintner
Echoes of the Past, Ashley Farley
*Hard and Holy Work: A Lenten Journey Through the Book
of Exodus*, Mary Alice Birdwhistell
The Gifts of Imperfection, Brené Brown
Loving God in the Darkness, Layne Wallace
Making Sense of Revelation: A Clear Message of Hope, Wil-
liam L. Turner
*Reading Revelation: A Literary and Theological
Commentary*, Joseph Trafton
*Whiskey in a Teacup: What Growing Up in the South
Taught Me*, Reese Witherspoon

JUVENILE FICTION

The Chance to Fly, Ali Stroker
Cut Loose, Ali Stroker

SERIES

The Beast and the Bethany, Jack Meggitt-Phillips
City Spies, James Ponti
Hilo (Graphic Novels), Judd Winick
Once Upon a Tim, Stuart Gibbs
Sunny, Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm
Wilderlore, Amanda Foody

PICTURE BOOKS

Maisie McGillicuddy's Sheep Got Muddy, Kelly Grettler
Noticing, Kobi Yamada
Trying, Kobi Yamada
What Do You Do With a Chance, Kobi Yamada
You're Going to Love This Book!, Jory John

YA BOOKS

Give Me a Sign, Anna Sortino
Something More, Jackie Khalilieh

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

■ Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
■ Wednesday: 9 a.m.–Noon, 2–7 p.m.
■ Saturdays: Closed
■ Sundays: 9–10:45 a.m.

How to Give

Your gifts are changing lives inside and outside our walls. Below are several methods you can use to contribute financially. Thanks for your generosity.

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 Lori Gooden's attention at Wilshire.

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

DONATE STOCKS. Contact Lori 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 QR 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.

Laurie Diffie

Hometown: Dallas

Present City: Dallas

Education: B.S. in education, Baylor University

Profession: IT Engineer at GuideStone Financial Resources (formerly the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention)

Tell us about your family.

My husband, Mike, and I have been married over 27 years. Our family has consisted of various cats, all adopted, over the years. My sister Sherry and her husband, Pat Hicks, are also Wilshire members. Our parents, Neal and Shirley Sanders, were longtime members of Wilshire as well.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

My original arrival was via the cradle roll. I returned after college but lost my way for a bit after my mother passed. My last return, this time with my husband, was in 2006. My main reason for returning? I very much missed singing in a high-quality community of faith choir.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

I am a newly ordained deacon. I am also part of Sanctuary Choir, Nova, Carillon Ringers and chair the Building and Grounds Committee this year. I am part of Faith in 3D. Mike and I volunteer in the church office every Sunday morning during Sunday School.

What has surprised you most about Wilshire?

Its resiliency. There have been so many changes in less than 10 years, yet the spirit of Wilshire continues to thrive. We are embracing changes



and allowing God to be the Master Artisan with us being the clay.

What do you think God is up to in your life right now?

God has been stretching me, urging me into new roles at Wilshire since 2017. I know there is more to come because I actively ask

God to show me where I can be used. Gone are the days where I could just sit idle and watch from the choir loft.

Tell us about your faith journey.

I gave my life to Christ at age 8 and was baptized at Wilshire by Bruce McIver. In the last few years, God has intertwined my life with people I consider strong Christians with strengths and spiritual gifts that I can see and learn from — for a time. Then God gently moves them back a bit and puts others into my life, and then new opportunities to grow continue. I know God is not finished with me and still has more expectations of me.

Tell us something interesting most people would not know about you.

Back in the 1980s I worked for Wilshire member Bob Harty writing business stories for *The Shopping News*.

What adjectives best describe you?

Positivity.

SUMMER 2024

Children & Preschool

Details and registration at
wilshirebc.org/summer-camps

Vacation Bible School

June 10-14 | 9 a.m.-noon
Age 3-grade 6 | Register by June 3

Cooking Camp

July 8-12 | 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Grades 1-6 | Register by June 30

Listen to Your Art!

July 8-12 | 12:30-5 p.m.
Grades 1-6 | Register by June 30

Full-Day: Cooking Camp and Listen to Your Art!

July 8-12 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Grades 2-6 | Register by June 30

Passport Kids Camp

July 27-30 | Overnight camp
in Brownwood, Texas
Grades 3-6 | Register by June 30

Creation Station

July 22-25 | 9 a.m.-noon
Age 3-Kindergarten
Register by July 14

This Week

Sunday, April 7

- WSM Book Club, Youth Center, 8:30 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Rental Assistance Program Training, 1205-L, noon
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2221, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Wilshire Bells, Handbell Room, 12:15 p.m.
- Children's Choirs, 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Pathways to Ministry Committee, Zoom, 1:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

Monday, April 8

- Total Eclipse Watch Party, North Parking Lot, Noon
- Wilshire Winds, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9

- Computer Classes, 2305 & 2307, 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday Evening Book Club, Parlor, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Ukulele Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 11 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Adventurers Committee, 1205-G, 1 p.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Preschool Music, Missions & More, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- MOPS Steering, 3105, 6 p.m.
- Mahjong!, James Gallery, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 11

- Stephen Ministry Training, 1100 B, 10 a.m.
- Stewpot Meal Service, 11:15 a.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, April 12

- Friday Friends, 3301, 10 a.m.
- WSM Spring Retreat, 6 p.m.
- Single, Foster, Adoptive Parents Night Out, 6:30 p.m.
- Marriage Connections, James Gallery, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 13

- WSM Spring Retreat continues
- The Deep Roots of Racism in the Christian Church, Sanctuary, 3 p.m.