

Welcome to Shadyside Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, study, fellowship, and service of this congregation.

If you are a guest with us this morning, our ushers are available to assist you.

Nursery care is available for infants through three-year-olds during worship. Pagers are available. A cry room with an audio broadcast of worship is available downstairs in the Marks Room.

Children in Worship - At 11:00 a.m., families with two- and three-year-olds are welcome to report directly to the Nursery. Four-year-olds through second-graders attend worship and may exit with their teachers before the sermon to participate in children's chapel worship and Christian education. (If you are a first-time guest, please accompany your child to the Chapel, and then you may return to the Sanctuary.) Parents should meet their children in the Christian education classrooms after worship. On the first Sunday of the month, first- and second-graders stay in worship through the entire service for Communion. A bulletin insert designed for children is available in the Narthex.

A video broadcast of worship is available in the Craig Room, accessible through the Narthex at the back of the Sanctuary.

Prayer Request Cards - You are invited to write on a Prayer Request Card the names of those who are sick or in need of intercessory prayer.

Enlarged bulletins and individual listening devices for improved sound are available in the Narthex at the back of the Sanctuary. Please see an usher for assistance.

Fifth Avenue Parking - Parking on the inbound side of the block from Wilkins Avenue to Amberson Avenue is not available on Sunday mornings. Parking is available on the outbound side as well as both sides of Fifth Avenue from Amberson Avenue into Oakland. We appreciate your helpfulness utilizing these available parking areas on Sunday mornings.

Time of Fellowship immediately follows worship. Please join us after the service for light refreshments and an opportunity to greet each other.

! Please silence cellular phones and other mobile devices while in the Sanctuary.

Order of Worship

The service of worship begins with the music of the prelude.

Through its power and brilliance, may you feel the majesty and glory of God; in its quietness, His peace.

Once the Call to Worship has begun, please wait to enter the Sanctuary until the choir has processed.

PRELUDE

Four settings of “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Peter Pindar Stearns

John R. Watkinson

Raymond Weidner

Richard Purvis

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Charlotte W. Beukema, Ann E. Pauley, and Janet W. Wood,

Members of the Community Partnerships Mission Action Community (MAC)

Leader: Today we light the candles of the Advent wreath for hope and for peace.

All: “For a Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Leader: God promises us that in Jesus, His Kingdom will reign, bringing peace to all.

All: Let us worship God.

▲ HYMN IN PROCESSION 11

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

Valet will ich dir geben

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

The Reverend John F. Magnuson

PRECES

David Jernigan

O Lord, open Thou our lips: And our mouth shall shew forth Thy praise. O God, make haste to save us: O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Praise ye the Lord. The Lord’s name be praised.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken in unison)*

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Book of Common Worship

SILENT CONFESSION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(sung in unison)*

St. Louis (Hymn no. 44)

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1868

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(sung in unison)*

Besaçon (Hymn no. 12)

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), as in *Oxford Book of Carols*, 1964

Children who are participating in children's worship activities are invited to leave through the Sharp Atrium door. (If you are a first-time guest, please accompany your child to the Chapel, and then you may return to the Sanctuary.)

WELCOME

SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:1-4

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Reverend Todd E. Leach

page 889 of the Old Testament in the pew Bible

ANTHEM

How Lovely Are the Messengers

Felix Mendelssohn

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace! To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words.

Text: Romans 5:15-16

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-6

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

page 60 of the New Testament in the pew Bible

SERMON

Clearing the Way

The Reverend Lynn M. Portz

▲ **HYMN OF RESPONSE 309**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Divinum mysterium

▲ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING ANTHEM

And the Glory of the Lord

George Frideric Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it

Text: Isaiah 40:5

▲ **DOXOLOGY**

Old Hundredth (Hymn no. 592)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

▲ **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

▲ **HYMN 13**

Prepare the Way

Bereden väg för Herran

▲ **BENEDICTION**

▲ **CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing

George Frideric Handel

Today in Shadyside Presbyterian Church

Acolytes for December - Nathan N. Boyle and Grace E. Coffelt.

Ushers for December - Brigetta P. Del Re, Marilyn H. Fitzsimmons, Raymond P. Fitzsimmons, Herold S. Hannah Jr., Percy M. Jackson, W. Duff McCrady, Terrence H. Murphy, Martin E. Powell, and Carey T. Vinson. **Coordinators:** Randy C. Adams II, Mark G. Allston, Brigetta P. Del Re, Raymond P. Fitzsimmons, Elise A. Hunter, Percy M. Jackson, and Robert P. O'Neil.

About This Morning's Music

The opening choir response is a setting of the *Preces*, a form of prayer which is one of the oldest in Christianity. The *Preces* finds its source in the pre-Christian Hebrew prayers of the Psalms in Temple Worship. The form consists of a series of short petitions by an individual, and responses by an ensemble. This morning, the *Preces* is sung by the Chancel Choir and the Nazareth Choir.

The melody of *Divinum mysterium*, known to us as the hymn "Of the Father's Love Begotten," likely dates from the thirteenth century. "Divine Mystery" refers to the mysteries of Christ's birth, written about by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-ca. 413), a highly prolific and prominent Spanish author of early sacred Latin poetry. The original text, "*Corde natus ex Parentis*," was translated by John Mason Neale in 1854. The tune is widely used by both orchestral and choral composers the world over.

A Service of Lessons and Carols

..... Today at 3:00 p.m.

Join us for this service featuring a series of Scripture readings, carols, hymns, and choral anthems sung by the Chancel Choir in the tradition of King's College, Cambridge.

Among Angels

..... Sunday, December 16, at 3:00 p.m.

The Pittsburgh Camerata transports audiences to the realms of glory with choral music from the 16th to the 21st centuries evoking images of angels. Tickets: www.pittsburghcamerata.org or at the door.

Advent Vespers: Tell Us of the Night

..... Wednesdays, December 12 and 19, at 7:00 p.m.

During the season of Advent, Shadyside Presbyterian Church invites you to join us on Wednesdays for an evening of music and reflection in our Sanctuary. These 45-minute candlelight Communion services include homilies from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary professors, the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and music offered by the Shadyside Strings, Chatham Baroque, and the Pittsburgh Girls Choir. Childcare is available.

Wednesday, December 12

Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell
"Experts-in-Waiting"
(Matthew 2:13-15)

Wednesday, December 19

Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell
"You Can't Always Get What You Want"
(Micah 5:2-6)

Mission Partner Spotlight

The Foundation of HOPE is an interfaith ministry at the Allegheny County Jail which seeks to “empower incarcerated and released individuals to restore their relationship with their God, rebuild their lives, and reconcile to their community.”

Volunteers can get involved in one-time events, office assistance, or volunteering on a regular basis through any of the three areas of HOPE:

- Volunteers can serve with the HOPE Chaplaincy Program by visiting inmates one on one, leading worship services, and/or leading Bible studies for inmates.
- Volunteers with the HOPE Pre-Release Program assist with teaching classes to participants who live in a communal, faith-based, rehabilitative housing unit.
- Volunteers in the HOPE Aftercare Program can serve as mentors to former inmates or assist with support groups held in the community.

Shadyside has partnered with HOPE by providing space for volunteer trainings and events, sending volunteers for caroling, Christmas packaging, HOPE Pre-Release instructors, mentors, and more. Shadyside also helps give parents in the Allegheny County Jail an opportunity to read and record stories for their children. You are welcome to join us in providing new youth and children’s books, which the mothers and fathers will then pass along to their children. A collection basket is located by the entrance to the Sharp Atrium; book donations are welcome and appreciated at any time. Please keep the participants of the HOPE program in your prayers and prayerfully consider ways you can participate in this ministry.

For more information about the Foundation of HOPE, visit www.foundationofhope.org. To join the efforts of the Community Partnerships Mission Action Community (MAC), contact the Reverend Todd E. Leach, Associate Pastor for Missions.

Daily Prayer Lectionary Readings

..... December 9 - 16

Sunday, December 9

Psalms 24; 150
Isaiah 5:1-7
2 Peter 3:11-18
Luke 7:28-35

Tuesday, December 11

Psalms 33; 146
Isaiah 5:18-25
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Luke 21:29-38

Thursday, December 13

Psalms 18:1-20; 147:12-20
Isaiah 7:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Luke 22:1-13

Saturday, December 15

Psalms 90; 149
Isaiah 8:1-15
2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
Luke 22:31-38

Monday, December 10

Psalms 122; 145
Isaiah 5:8-17
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Luke 21:20-28

Wednesday, December 12

Psalms 50; 147:1-11
Isaiah 6:1-13
2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
John 7:53-8:11

Friday, December 14

Psalms 102; 148
Isaiah 7:10-25
2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
Luke 22:14-30

Sunday, December 16

Psalms 24; 150
Isaiah 13:1-13
Hebrews 12:18-29
John 3:22-30

News and Notes

Cookies for College Students - Shadyside Presbyterian Church's Campus Ministry Mission Action Community (MAC) is gathering cookies to distribute to students in our continuing efforts to share love and encouragement during the stressful finals week for Carnegie Mellon University and Chatham University. Cookie donations will be collected in the Sharp Atrium today, December 9. Would you like to help us spread the love on campus? Please sign up in the Sharp Atrium, or contact Jeff Brown through the church office for more information.

The Giving Tree - Today, the Giving Tree in the Sharp Atrium will be decorated with special ornaments listing the name and clothing/shoe sizes of gift recipients from Sojourner House and POWER (Pennsylvania Organization for Women in Early Recovery). A member of the Community Partnerships Mission Action Community (MAC) will be present to register your name along with the name of the recipient. Please return gift-wrapped pajamas and slippers to the church by Sunday, December 23. If you have questions, please contact Lisa Iadicicco through the church office.

Community Open House - Take a break from the hustle and bustle of this hectic season, and refresh your spirit in the beauty and serenity of our sacred spaces. Warm beverages and cookies will be available in the Sharp Atrium today from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Join us as your schedule permits, and please invite friends and neighbors to this welcoming event. Consider returning or remaining afterward for a Service of Lessons and Carols at 3:00 p.m.

Mexico City Mission Trip: March 9-16, 2019 - Shadyside will travel once again to Mexico City to join in the work of Urban Mosaic. We will join alongside local churches and continue the efforts of building CentroRenovar, a retreat facility to serve churches. In addition to the construction, we will have the opportunity to witness various portions of Urban Mosaic's ministry. Please contact Rev. Todd E. Leach if you are interested, and mark your calendars to attend an informational meeting following worship on Sunday, December 9.

Young Adult Bible Study - Young adults and friends of Shadyside Presbyterian Church are invited to participate in our study of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. We typically gather from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays in the Stamy Room. Our next meeting is Thursday, December 13. Join us as we continue to build community through study. For more information, please contact Rev. John Magnuson.

Pledges and Year-End Giving - As we come to the close of the year, please consider whether you have completed paying your pledge for this calendar year. For those who make year-end gifts, please remember the church in your giving. Both pledges and gifts must be **received** by December 31 in order to be included in this year. Looking ahead, if you have not made your pledge for 2019, please do so by completing one of the pledge forms in the pews and placing it in the offering plate or sending it to the church office.

Letters of joys and concerns are on the table in the Narthex. Please take time to sign the letters.

Midweek Vespers will not be held on Wednesday, December 26, 2018, and Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Vespers resume on Wednesday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Christian Education Classes will not be held at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 30, 2018. Education classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 6, 2019, at 9:45 a.m.

Connections Dinner – On Wednesday, January 9, you are invited to a congregational dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Join us for a wonderful time to connect with one another while enjoying a delicious home-cooked meal prepared by Chef Steven Bright. Please make your reservation by signing up in the Sharp Atrium by Monday, January 7. A freewill offering will be received to offset the costs of the meal. Nursery care is available. If you are able, we hope you will stay for vespers in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

Nursery School Registering Students for 2019-2020 – The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Nursery School (SPCNS) offers developmentally appropriate classes on weekday mornings (September through May) for two-, three-, four-, and pre-kindergarten five-year-olds. Currently, SPCNS is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. Returning students and SPC members are given preference for enrollment. Call Director Mary Lang at 412-681-6311, or visit the school’s website: shadysideschool.org.

Prayer Gatherings occur on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., and on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. You are invited to join us for a time of silent and spoken prayers, as we bring our concerns before God. If you cannot be with us in person, we encourage you to remember the congregation in your prayers at these same times. This is one of the many ways we can express our care for one another.

PrayerNet complements our ongoing prayer groups by lifting up urgent prayer requests. If you or a loved one are in need of urgent prayer, or if you would like to become a PrayerNet prayer partner to help lift up these requests, email member Krissy Moehling at prayernet@shadysidepres.org. Confidentiality, if requested for names and/or situations, will be maintained.

Daily Prayer – As a part of our church-wide discipleship, we follow the daily lectionary in the Book of Common Worship Daily Prayer, which also contains prayers and intimate worship services. Feel free to pick up one of the books from the bookcase in the Parlor (accessible via the Sharp Atrium) for a suggested donation of \$10. (Checks may be placed in an offering plate and made payable to “Shadyside Presbyterian Church” with “Daily Lectionary” in the memo line.) We hope you will join us on this journey of discipleship!

The Mini-Mouse – Sign up to receive our weekly e-newsletter by providing your email address when registering your attendance in the pew pad or by sending an email message to info@shadysidepres.org.

Live Webcast – Listen to a live audio stream of our service of worship at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Please share the link www.shadysidepres.org/live with friends and neighbors who may not be able to join us in person.

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church website, www.shadysidepres.org, provides additional information about the church’s many programs, activities, and events, as well as access to audio recordings of worship.

About the Cover Artwork

Los Angeles artist John August Swanson is noted for his finely detailed, brilliantly colored paintings and original prints. His works are found in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, London's Tate Gallery, the Vatican Museums' Collection of Modern Religious Art, and other prestigious venues. The largest collection of Swanson's work – more than fifty pieces – is displayed at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.

The son of a Mexican mother and a Swedish father, Swanson is influenced by the folk art traditions of those two countries. He also is interested in the way Byzantine and medieval works of art, such as mosaics and stained glass windows, communicated the stories of the Old and New Testaments to people of different times and places. Many of his works are visual narratives consisting of numerous panels, each panel showing a scene from the story. *Flight into Egypt* is the fifth scene in a six-segment set known as “the Birth Narrative,” which depicts the familiar Advent and Christmas texts from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Most of Swanson's works are serigraphs, which are made with a screen of fabric stretched tightly across a rectangular frame. Designs are created in stencil form on the screen, allowing ink to be moved through to the paper below. A separate screen must be made for each of the colors printed on the serigraph. Swanson's serigraphs are unusually complex, not only in their detail but also in the number of stencils used. One piece from the Birth Narrative, for example, required sixty-one stencils.

When reflecting on his art, John Swanson often returns to the idea of “seeing the sacred in the ordinary.” His art explores how everyday life is filled with the divine and how those going about their daily tasks have God living within them. The artist-writer Gertrude Mueller Nelson writes that John's art is, “about infusing the world with a vision of the holy and discovering the divine in the earthly task at hand.” This is the inspiration for John's creative vision and the driving force for his art.

John's art opens windows for us to explore. He helps us regain that amazing sense of wonder we enjoyed as children. As adults living in our everyday, self-absorbed world, we too often forget that we are part of an immense universe, filled with mystery and the majesty of God. The art of John August Swanson gives us a vision into the communal sacredness of the lives we share. He helps us rediscover that vast holy mystery, and reconnect with the inherent wonder of life.

Christmas Eve

..... Monday, December 24, in the Sanctuary

Family Service at 4:00 p.m.

This family service appeals to congregants of all ages and lasts approximately 45 minutes.

Candlelight Service at 8:00 p.m.

This beloved traditional service is preceded by an extended choral and orchestral prelude beginning at 7:40 p.m. and concludes with a ceremony of lights.

Church Calendar

..... December 9 - 16

TODAY

December 9

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary – Second Sunday of Advent
- 11:20 a.m. Children’s Chapel (Preschool through 2nd Grade)
- 12:00 p.m. Time of Fellowship in the Sharp Atrium
- 12:00 p.m. Sunday Adventures in Music (SAM) continues in the Chapel
- 12:15 p.m. Mexico Mission Informational Meeting in the Hulme Room
- 12:30 p.m. SPYS (Youth Group) in the Youth Room
- 1:00 p.m. Christmas Community Open House in the Sharp Atrium and Parlor
- 3:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary

MONDAY

- 1:00 p.m. College Cookie Distribution for Chatham Volunteers in the Sharp Atrium

TUESDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery School Board Meeting in the Stamy Room
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Group in the Craig Room
- 11:30 a.m. Office Closed for Staff Christmas Party
- 6:00 p.m. Yoga in the Hulme Room

WEDNESDAY

- 5:00 p.m. College Cookie Distribution for CMU Volunteers in the Sharp Atrium
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Vespers in the Sanctuary – Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, preaching

THURSDAY

- 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Group in the Walton Library
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study in the Stamy Room
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel

SUNDAY

December 16

- 9:45 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary – Third Sunday of Advent
- 11:20 a.m. Children’s Chapel (Preschool through 2nd Grade)
- 12:00 p.m. Time of Fellowship in the Sharp Atrium
- 12:00 p.m. Sunday Adventures in Music (SAM) continues in the Chapel
- 12:30 p.m. SPYS (Youth Group) in the Youth Room
- 3:00 p.m. Pittsburgh Camerata Concert in the Sanctuary, followed by a Reception in the Sharp Atrium

Adult Christian Education

..... Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

On Sunday mornings, the Adult Christian Education Team invites you to gather in the Sharp Atrium at 9:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship and light refreshments before attending the study of your choice.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

September 9 through May

in the Hulme Room

Luther's Commentary on Romans

Led by Dr. Richard L. McGough III

TOPICAL STUDY

December 2 through 23, and January 6

in the Craig Room

Magrey R. deVega's *Songs for the Waiting*

Led by Jenifer D. Johnson and Deacon Adam D. Loucks

Cover Artwork: Detail of *Flight into Egypt* © 2018 John August Swanson | Eyekons

Church Staff

Todd E. Leach, *Associate Pastor for Missions*

John F. Magnuson, *Associate Pastor for Discipleship*

Lynn M. Portz, *Associate Pastor for Parish Life*

Ellen L. Allston, *Director of Christian Education for
Children's Ministry*

Mark A. Anderson, *Director of Music Ministry*

Robert K. Anderson, *Head Sexton*

Peter F. Bodnar, *Director of Communications*

Jane M. Boyle, *Director of Children's Handbell Choir*

Steven M. Bright, *Hospitality Coordinator*

Jeffrey T. Brown, *Director of Campus Outreach*

Judy A. Brust, *Accountant*

Robert A. Coder, *Director of Finance*

Stephen M. Donnelly, *Associate for Children's Music
Education*

Della L. Ellard, *Administrative Assistant*

Ruth E. Garrett, *Assistant to the Senior Pastor*

Karen S. Jueng, *Associate for Children's Ministry*

Mary E. Lang, *Director of the Nursery School*

Sonja Lipski, *Infant Ministry*

Dennis H. Martin, *Sexton*

Bobby C. Pack Jr., *Sexton*

Nancy M. Shaytar, *Director of Finance Emerita*

Kaysie L. Strickland, *Assistant to the Associate Pastors*

Justin M. Wallace, *Assistant Organist*



A Member of the Pittsburgh Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Shadyside Presbyterian Church seeks to reflect God's unconditional love as we proclaim, witness to, and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ. We strive to be a worshiping, welcoming, learning, and serving community of faith that is comforted, challenged, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

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www.shadysidepres.org ■ www.facebook.com/ShadysidePresbyterian



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