



Order of Worship

We invite you to create a worship space for yourself by preparing Communion elements in advance. Consider gathering grape juice and bread; another beverage, crackers, or matzo also work. At the point that we celebrate the Lord's Supper, the pastor will guide you. We also invite you to light a candle in your worship space if it is safe to do so. Even as we are physically distanced, it is the same light of Christ that shines in all our darkness.

WELCOME

The Reverend Lynn M. Portz

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Watch and wait for Christ's coming, remembering the faithful promises of God. We light the first candle in hope. We light the second candle for peace. With the psalmist we sing praise:

People: **Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be His glorious name forever; may His glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.**

Pastor: May this light be a sign to us and to the world that the Kingdom of God is near.

People: **God of promise, God of peace, into our darkness come.**

Incorporating Psalm 72:18-19

▲ HYMN 13

Prepare the Way

Bereden väg för Herran

1. Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
(Refrain:) *O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.*
2. Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. (Refrain)
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. (Refrain)

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen (1771-1847). Text adaptation: Charles P. Price, 1980; alt. 1989.

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Music: *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697. Arrangement: *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

ORISON

God Is Light

George Thalben-Ball

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir Ensemble

God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

Text: 1 John 1:5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken in unison)*

Emmanuel, You love us, but we do not love You fully. You call, but we do not listen. In these hectic days, we easily become wrapped in our own concerns, we rush by those in need, and miss the sounds of heaven rejoicing. We are lost in a fever of busyness that has separated us from You. Confront us with our sin, that we may repent and receive the forgiveness that carries us home to You.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(sung in unison)*

St. Louis

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. Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Believe the good news of the Gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(sung in unison)*

Antioch

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; alt. Music attributed to George Frideric Handel, 1742; arranged by Lowell Mason, 1836.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Reverend Todd E. Leach

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Claude Goudimel

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir Ensemble

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1671. Translation: Catherine Winkworth.

SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Reverend Dr. John A. Dalles

While You Are Waiting

▲ HYMN OF RESPONSE 5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.
4. At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Text from Liturgy of St. James, 4th century. Translation: Gerard Moultrie, 1864.

Music: French carol. Harmonization: *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Reverend Kendra L. Buckwalter Smith

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.

The Apostles' Creed

ANTHEM

Salvation Is Created

Pavel Chesnokov

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

Salvation is created in the midst of the earth, O God. Alleluia.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Reverend Kendra L. Buckwalter Smith

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

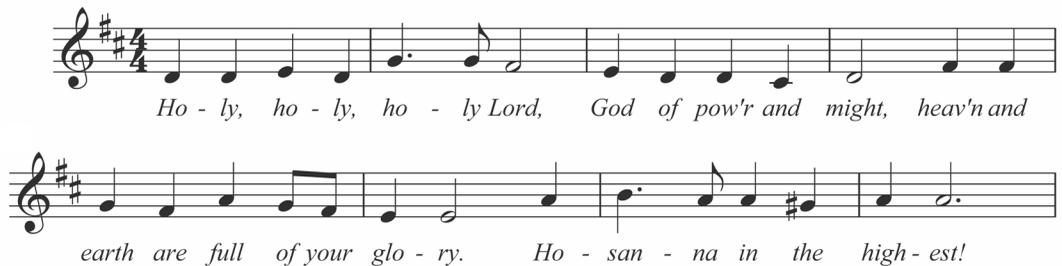
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The prayer continues.

... Therefore we praise You, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who sing to the glory of Your name:

SANCTUS *(sung in unison)*

Mark A. Anderson



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav'n and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

(The Sanctus continues on page 5.)

Bles - sed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

The prayer continues.

... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor are Yours, eternal God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

We embody our unity in Christ through the action of partaking. Along with the pastor, please partake of the bread and then the cup.

PRAYER OF RESPONSE 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.

▲ HYMN 15

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Llangloffan

1. Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
 The evening is advancing and darker night is near.
 The Bridegroom is arising and soon He will draw nigh;
 Up, watch with expectation, at midnight comes the cry.
2. See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;
 Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
 The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;
 Arise, O heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!

(Hymn continues on page 6.)

3. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Thou Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, and ever be with Thee!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1700. Translation: Sarah Borthwick Findlater, 1854; alt. *The Hymnal 1982*.

Music: Welsh folk melody, Evans' *Hymnau a Thonau*, 1865, as in *English Hymnal*, 1906.

▲ BENEDICTION

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Soli Deo gloria!

*Thank you for worshipping with us virtually this day.
Please let us know you joined us online today by [clicking here](#) and completing the form.*

Today from Shadyside Presbyterian Church

Singing in the Chancel Choir Ensemble this morning are Gail Roup and Jennifer Saunders-LaRocco, soprano; Jane M. Boyle and Jolanta Doherty, alto; Mark A. Boyle and Alex Sabo, tenor; and Brian Doherty, baritone.

The Communion Chalice, Flagon, and Plate used today are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Momoko Hayase Mills, who faithfully prepared the Lord's Table in this Sanctuary with humble reverence and deep love for decades. Commissioned by Shadyside Presbyterian Church, the Communion set was fashioned by Deacon Garret B. Smith. We give thanks to God both for Momoko's caring service and for Garret's talented craftsmanship.

We gratefully acknowledge the helpful contributions of the Session's task force for online worship: Elders John E. B. Baldrige, Brigetta P. Del Re, and Victoria L. Potter, who assisted in coordinating the logistics of presenting a virtual service of worship on the Internet. We also thank Stephen Donnelly and Jesse Naus for their assistance in recording the Chancel Choir Ensemble's video segments.

Virtual Service of Lessons & Carols

..... Today, December 6, at 3:00 p.m.

Join us online for this virtual 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.

Christmas with the Camerata

..... Sunday, December 13, at 3:00 p.m.

In this web-based concert recording, the Pittsburgh Camerata sings a program of choral and vocal music for Christmas. Visit pittsburghcamerata.org to learn more or to purchase virtual tickets.

News and Notes

Building Status - Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the church building is open on a limited basis to members and guests by appointment only. With the exception of small weddings, funerals, and memorial services, all other activities, including Sunday services of worship, will not meet on-site until further notice. In order to recommend our advancement to the next stage of re-opening at the appropriate juncture, the COVID-19 Task Force is monitoring government guidance as well as local data for COVID-19 cases and positivity rates.

Virtual Friendship Pad - Please take a moment to let us know you joined us today by “signing” our virtual friendship pad. Complete the form at www.shadysidepres.org/check-in and click submit. Thank you!

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. While the COVID-19 countermeasures remain in effect, both prayer groups will meet virtually via Zoom videoconferencing. Please contact Deacon Connie Coffelt through the church office to access the meetings.

Thursday Morning Coffee with Rev. Leach - While practicing “social distancing” we can be intentional about remaining connected with one another. Rev. Todd E. Leach is inviting you to join in casual and informal conversation with him and others on Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m. This is an opportunity for us to check in with one another and, perhaps, share creative ideas of embracing this time of “self-isolation.” To join the conversation, contact Rev. Todd Leach: tleach@shadysidepres.org.

Women at the Well - Women of all ages are welcome to gather online with the “Women at the Well” for in-depth Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. Friendships and connections grow deeper when we share the Scriptures in study and prayer. This fall, we are exploring *Everything You Need*, a study guide by Dr. David Jeremiah. In general, we meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, but check the calendar for exceptions. Our next virtual gathering occurs Thursday, December 10. Please contact Deacon Connie Coffelt through the church office to access the meeting via Zoom.

Friday Evening Scripture and Prayer - Shadyside Presbyterian Church’s Prayer Ministries invite you to a time of spiritual connection as we experience physical distancing. Gather with us via Zoom videoconferencing on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. to read the daily lectionary Scriptures and pray together. Please contact Deacon Adam Loucks through the church office to access the meeting.

Children’s Chapel - The Children’s Ministry of Shadyside Presbyterian Church invites families to gather remotely with us for our weekly online chapel time on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Children enjoy singing songs, hearing a story from the Bible, and praying with us. Chapel worship streams live through a protected Facebook group; for access, please contact Ellen Allston: eallston@shadysidepres.org. To view previous videos, visit the church’s YouTube channel. We’re looking forward to celebrating Jesus with you!

Virtual Time of Fellowship - Immediately following worship, the Parish Life Ministry Team will host an informal Time of Fellowship online so that we may connect with one another and share the blessings and challenges we are experiencing in this time of isolation. Folks are welcome to “come and go” as we check in with one another. To participate in future virtual fellowship gatherings via Zoom videoconferencing, please contact Kaysie Strickland through the church office before noon on Friday.

Christmas Poinsettias – The Board of Deacons will approach our Flower Ministry’s poinsettia options differently this season. Although we are unable to provide you with the opportunity to order a poinsettia plant for yourself this year, we invite you to support the church’s flower fund and to place loved ones’ names in the bulletin. There is no required minimum amount for a donation; please give whatever you deem appropriate and know that, in addition to beautifying the Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons, you also will be bringing joy to those who would be blessed by a poinsettia delivered by the deacons. Visit www.shadysidepres.org/poinsettia before Friday, December 18, for details and instructions.

Presbyterian Mission Giving: Alternative Gifts – If you are looking for a special gift for a loved one, consider giving a meaningful gift from the [Presbyterian Giving Catalog](#). View [this video](#) to see how such giving can support a community’s vision for transformation. Explore a wide variety of gifts that provide real and positive impact around the world – including aid for refugees, access to clean water, and helping to end hunger. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rev. Todd E. Leach: tleach@shadysidepres.org.

The Virtual Giving Tree will benefit the families at Sojourner House; Sojourner House’s Mentoring, Opportunity, Motivation, and Spirituality (MOMS) program; and the Pennsylvania Organization for Women in Early Recovery (POWER). Please visit www.shadysidepres.org/giving-tree to select the name of a recipient, along with the corresponding clothing size and color preference. Gift-wrapped packages should be returned to the church by Sunday, December 20; please affix to the package the gift tag that will be emailed to you. Questions? Please contact Deacon Lisa Iadicicco through the church office.

eGiving Options – Shadyside Presbyterian Church offers secure eGiving options in order to encourage faithful stewardship. Please visit www.shadysidepres.org/give to begin a one-time or recurring contribution; or, text **SHADYSIDE** and an amount to 73256, then follow the link to complete your gift. Thank you for faithfully supporting the mission and ministry of Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

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 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 30, in order to be included in this year. Looking ahead, if you have not made your pledge for 2021, please do so by returning your form to the church, or pledge online by visiting www.shadysidepres.org/pledge.

The Pastor Nominating Committee is comprised of seven members of the congregation: Susan Balaan, Sara Brooke, Don Coffelt, Percy Jackson, Adam Loucks, Ann Pauley, and Janet Rohrer. Previous updates from the PNC are published on the church website: www.shadysidepres.org/pnc. You may contact them via email: pnc@shadysidepres.org. Please continue to pray for them as they work to discern whom God is calling to be our next senior pastor.

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 Geffel at prayernet@shadysidepres.org. Confidentiality, if requested for names and/or situations, will be maintained.

Care and Support – Your pastors, staff, elders, deacons, and Care Team remain deeply committed to caring for our congregation. We are making every effort to remain connected, especially with those who are most vulnerable and those who may be feeling lonely or anxious. We encourage you to stay connected by phone, email, or social media. Please don’t hesitate to reach out by any of these means if you want to talk to someone.

By God's Side: Blog from Dr. Dalles – Shadyside Presbyterian Church publishes *By God's Side*, a weekly series of inspirational reflections from the Reverend Dr. John A. Dalles, to support you in your spiritual journey. These pastoral messages appear in the blog section of the church website; each week, an excerpt is included in the *Mini-Mouse* e-newsletter with a link to continue reading the full blog entry on the website. (If you do not already receive the e-newsletter, please see below.) We hope this regular feature will help you to draw closer to God's side in your life of faith.

The Mini-Mouse – Sign up to receive our weekly e-newsletter by sending your subscription request in an email message to info@shadysidepres.org or by following the instructions at shadysidepres.org/mini-mouse.

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church online worship archive contains audio recordings of worship from previous years, which we encourage you to explore. We hope these archived resources will enhance your personal devotional time as we face an extended period of physical separation from our community of faith.

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

Mission Partner Spotlight

..... *Promised Land Ministries Student Sponsorship Program*

This Christmas, please consider giving the gift of education to a student in need. In partnership with the Promised Land Ministries (PLM) student sponsorship program, Shadyside Presbyterian Church members help more than thirty children attend PLM's school in Guatemala. We hope you might consider sponsoring one of the remaining students:

- **Jackeline** is a four-year-old kindergarten student whose favorite color is red. When she grows up, she wants to be a teacher.
- **Javier** is a six-year-old whose favorite food is pancakes. He dreams of being a doctor someday.
- **Edy** is a seven-year-old first-grade student whose favorite color is green; his favorite food is fried chicken and fries.
- **Enma** is a fourteen-year-old eighth-grade student. She says, "The best way to start my day is by praying and putting all my activities in God's hands, because I know He will help me." In the future, she wants to be an educational psychologist and to be remembered as a person that makes a difference.

A sponsorship of \$360 covers school uniform, materials, and annual tuition. To learn more, or to sponsor one of the students, please contact Rev. Todd E. Leach: tleach@shadysidepres.org.

Virtual Vespers in Advent

..... *Wednesdays, December 9 and 16, at 7:00 p.m.*

During the liturgical season of Advent, Shadyside Presbyterian Church invites you to join us each Wednesday for an evening of music and reflection. These online-only candlelight Communion services include a homily, the Lord's Supper, and music offered by the Shadyside Strings, Chatham Baroque, and vocal soloists.

To connect remotely, visit www.shadysidepres.org.

Church Calendar

..... December 6 - 13

TODAY <i>December 6</i>	11:00 a.m.	Virtual Worship on YouTube and Facebook – Second Sunday of Advent
	11:45 a.m.	Virtual Time of Fellowship via Zoom Videoconferencing
	3:00 p.m.	Virtual Service of Lessons and Carols on YouTube and Facebook
TUESDAY	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer Group via Zoom Videoconferencing
	5:00 p.m.	Yoga via Zoom Videoconferencing
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study via Zoom Videoconferencing
WEDNESDAY	7:00 p.m.	Virtual Vespers in Advent on YouTube and Facebook
THURSDAY	9:30 a.m.	Morning Coffee with Rev. Leach via Zoom Videoconferencing
	10:30 a.m.	“Women at the Well” Bible Study via Zoom Videoconferencing
	6:30 p.m.	Pastor Nominating Committee via Zoom Videoconferencing
	7:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer Group via Zoom Videoconferencing
FRIDAY	7:30 p.m.	Evening Scripture and Prayer Gathering via Zoom Videoconferencing
SUNDAY <i>December 13</i>	9:30 a.m.	Adult Christian Education Studies via Zoom Videoconferencing
	10:30 a.m.	Children’s Chapel in the Children’s and Family Ministries’ Facebook Group
	11:00 a.m.	Virtual Worship on YouTube and Facebook – Third Sunday of Advent Rev. Dr. John A. Dalles, preaching
	11:45 a.m.	Virtual Time of Fellowship via Zoom Videoconferencing
	3:00 p.m.	“Christmas with the Camerata” Virtual Concert via pittsburghcamerata.org

Daily Prayer Lectionary Readings

..... December 6 - 13

Sunday, December 6 Psalms 24; 150 Isaiah 5:1-7 2 Peter 3:11-18 Luke 7:28-35	Tuesday, December 8 Psalms 33; 146 Isaiah 5:18-25 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 Luke 21:29-38	Thursday, December 10 Psalms 18:1-20; 147:12-20 Isaiah 7:1-9 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Luke 22:1-13	Saturday, December 12 Psalms 90; 149 Isaiah 8:1-15 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18 Luke 22:31-38
Monday, December 7 Psalms 122; 145 Isaiah 5:8-17 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Luke 21:20-28	Wednesday, December 9 Psalms 50; 147:1-11 Isaiah 6:1-13 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 John 7:53-8:11	Friday, December 11 Psalms 102; 148 Isaiah 7:10-25 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5 Luke 22:14-30	Sunday, December 13 Psalms 24; 150 Isaiah 13:1-13 Hebrews 12:18-29 John 3:22-30

Adult Christian Education

..... Sundays prior to Worship

On Sunday mornings, the Adult Christian Education Team invites you to gather online to attend the study of your choice. [Click here](#) to learn more about each class, including access instructions.

BIBLE STUDY

The Pauline Epistles:
1 Corinthians
Led by Elder Jason M. Huber
via Zoom Videoconferencing at 9:45 a.m.

TOPICAL STUDY

Handel's Messiah: The Gospel in Words and Music
Part One: November 8 through December 20
Led by Elder Margaret E. Heely
via Zoom Videoconferencing at 9:30 a.m.

Church Staff

John A. Dalles, *Interim Senior Pastor and Head of Staff*

Todd E. Leach, *Associate Pastor for Missions*

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

Kendra L. Buckwalter Smith, *Associate Pastor*

Wesley C. Smith, *Student Assistant Pastor*

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

Mark A. Anderson, *Director of Music Ministry*

Peter F. Bodnar, *Director of Communications*

Jane M. Boyle, *Assistant Children's Choir Director*

Steven M. Bright, *Hospitality Coordinator*

Judy A. Brust, *Accountant*

Robert A. Coder, *Director of Finance*

Wayne W. Diggs, *Sexton*

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

Della L. Ellard, *Administrative Assistant*

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

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

Dennis H. Martin, *Head 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*

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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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