



Order of Worship

*We regret that we cannot gather in person, but we are grateful to be gathered in spirit.
We invite you to spend a few moments in quiet meditation to prepare yourself for worship
and allow yourself to be surrounded by the peace of Christ before we begin.*

WELCOME

Wesley C. Smith, *Student Assistant Pastor*

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. We light the
third candle in joy. With Mary we proclaim:

People: **"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."**

Pastor: May this light be a sign to us and to the world that even the desert places of our lives
shall rejoice and blossom.

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

Incorporating Luke 1:47

▲ HYMN 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1744. Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

ORISON

Enter God's Gates with Thanksgiving

Mark A. Boyle

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise! This day is God's day! Rejoice and be exceedingly glad!

Text adapted from Psalms 100:4 and 118:24

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken in unison)*

Mighty God, You come among us bringing justice and joy. We confess that, too often, we do not trust in Your promise. Awaken us to Your presence, and fill us with Your love. Forgive us when our hunger for justice gives way to our hunger for power. Forgive us when our hope for peace is swallowed by fear of failure. Forgive us when our songs of faith are drowned out by the shouts of the world. Merciful God, come among us, and make all things new.

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 Kendra L. Buckwalter Smith

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 126

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Mary's Magnificat

Andrew Carter

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir Ensemble; Jennifer Saunders-LaRocco, soprano

Softly a light is stealing, sweetly a maiden sings, ever wakeful, ever wistful, watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of kings. *My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced, rejoiced in God my Savior.* Mary her song to Jesus softly, serenely sings: "I will love You, I will serve You, may my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of kings." Lullaby, lullaby.

Text: Luke 1:46; Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46b-55

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Reverend Dr. John A. Dalles

Magnifying the Lord

▲ HYMN OF RESPONSE

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Bay Point Road

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame; "All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary." Most highly favored lady. Gloria!
2. "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee; Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold." Most highly favored lady. Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said. "My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady. Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, And Christians all throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady. Gloria!"

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: Mark A. Anderson (b. 1962).

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The Apostles' Creed

The Reverend Lynn M. Portz

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.

ANTHEM

The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon Me (from *The Apostles*)

Edward Elgar

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord; to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD that He might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the LORD GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Text: Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

▲ DOXOLOGY (*sung in unison*)

Old Hundredth

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.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709. Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551.

▲ OFFERTORY PRAYER

▲ HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!
2. Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.
3. Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1642. Translation: Catherine Winkworth, 1855.
Music: Thomas Williams, 1789. Harmonization: Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

▲ 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.

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 segment.

Virtual Vespers in Advent

..... *Wednesday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m.*

Shadyside Presbyterian Church invites you to join us for an evening of music and reflection on Wednesday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m., when we offer our final virtual vespers of the Advent season. This online-only candlelight Communion service includes a homily, the Lord's Supper, and music offered by cellist Elisa Kohanski and a chamber choir. To connect remotely, visit www.shadysidepres.org.

Christmas with the Camerata

..... *Today, December 13, at 3:00 p.m.*

In this exclusive web-based concert, the Pittsburgh Camerata sings a program of choral and vocal music for Christmas. Recorded in advance, the performance will be released for viewing online today, December 13, at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon, and available through midnight on Friday, January 1. Hear the music of the season sung by Pittsburgh's premier professional chamber choir, under the direction of Mark A. Anderson, the church's Director of Music Ministry and the Camerata's Artistic Director.

Virtual tickets and subscriptions may be purchased online at www.pittsburghcamerata.org.

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!

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.

The Virtual Giving Tree will benefit the families of 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 a recipient. Details, including clothing size and color preference, will be emailed to you by Kaysie Strickland in the church office. Gift-wrapped packages should be returned to the church by Monday, December 21; please affix to the package a gift tag indicating the name or initials of the recipient, along with the recipient’s identification number. Questions? Please contact Deacon Lisa Iadicicco through the church office.

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.

Promised Land Ministries Student Sponsorship - 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. 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.

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.

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.

Virtual Midweek Vespers will not be held online on Wednesdays, December 23 and 30. Midweek Music Ministry programs will begin on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. on YouTube and Facebook.

Adult Christian Education Classes will not be held at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 27, 2020, or on Sunday, January 3, 2021. Education classes for adults will resume online Sunday, January 10, 2020, at 9:45 a.m.

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.

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. Currently, we are concluding our exploration of *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, January 14. Please contact Deacon Connie Coffelt through the church office to access the meeting via Zoom.

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.

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.

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.

Virtual Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve

..... Thursday, December 24, at 8:00 p.m.

This virtual service begins with a prelude by harpist Nuiko Wadden and concludes with the singing of "Silent Night" during a ceremony of lights. Enjoy this beloved tradition from the safety of your home. To connect remotely, please visit www.shadysidepres.org.

Church Calendar

..... December 13 - 20

TODAY

December 13

11:00 a.m. Virtual Worship on YouTube and Facebook – Third Sunday of Advent
11:45 a.m. Virtual Time of Fellowship via Zoom Videoconferencing
3:00 p.m. “Christmas with the Camerata” Virtual Concert via pittsburghcamerata.org

TUESDAY

9:15 a.m. Nursery School Board via Zoom Videoconferencing
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
7:45 p.m. Session via Zoom Videoconferencing

THURSDAY

9:30 a.m. Morning Coffee with Rev. Leach via Zoom Videoconferencing
6:30 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee via Zoom Videoconferencing
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Group via Zoom Videoconferencing

FRIDAY

9:00 a.m. Youth Ministry Committee via Zoom Videoconferencing
7:30 p.m. Evening Scripture and Prayer Gathering via Zoom Videoconferencing

SUNDAY

December 20

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 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Rev. Dr. John A. Dalles, preaching
11:45 a.m. Virtual Time of Fellowship via Zoom Videoconferencing

Daily Prayer Lectionary Readings

..... December 13 - 20

Sunday, December 13

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

Tuesday, December 15

Psalms 33; 146
Isaiah 9:2-7
2 Peter 1:12-21
Luke 22:54-69

Thursday, December 17

Psalms 18:1-20; 147:12-20
Isaiah 9:18-10:4
2 Peter 2:10b-16
Matthew 3:1-12

Saturday, December 19

Psalms 90; 149
Isaiah 11:10-16
Revelation 20:1-10
John 5:30-47

Monday, December 14

Psalms 122; 145
Isaiah 8:16-9:1
2 Peter 1:1-11
Luke 22:39-53

Wednesday, December 16

Psalms 50; 147:1-11
Isaiah 9:8-17
2 Peter 2:1-10a
Mark 1:1-8

Friday, December 18

Psalms 102; 148
Isaiah 11:1-9
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 3:16-21

Sunday, December 20

Psalms 24; 150
Isaiah 28:9-22
Revelation 20:11-21:8
Luke 1:5-25

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.

Note: Classes will not meet on December 27 and January 3. Classes resume on January 10.

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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