



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

The Reverend Kendra L. Buckwalter Smith

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. We light the fourth candle with love. With the psalmist, we cry out:

People: **Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Pastor: May this light be a sign to us and to the world that the God of our salvation is with us.

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

Incorporating Psalm 80:7

▲ HYMN 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
(Refrain:) *Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.*
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? (Refrain)
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

Text: French carol. Translation: James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: French carol, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937. Copyright © 1937, renewed 1965, Fleming H. Revell Company, H. Augustine Smith Jr., from the *New Church Hymnal*. All rights reserved.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

ORISON

This Is the Truth

Mark A. Boyle

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir Ensemble

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love; therefore don't turn me from your door but hearken all, both rich and poor. The first thing which I do relate, that God at first did man create; the next thing which to you I tell, woman was made with him to dwell. Then after this, 'twas God's own choice to place them both in Paradise, there to remain from evil free, except they ate of such a tree. But they did eat, which was a sin, and thus their ruin did begin – ruined themselves, both you and me, and all of their posterity. Thus we were heirs to endless woes till God the Lord did interpose; for so a promise soon did run: that He'd redeem us with a Son. So listen now as we declare our Savior's story everywhere. It all began in garden old and finds its way to manger cold.

Text: Verses 1-5, traditional English folk song. Verse 6, Mark A. Boyle.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken in unison)*

Forgive my sins, O Lord: the sins of my soul and the sins of my body, the sins I have done to please myself and the sins I have done to please others. Forgive those sins which I know and those which I know not. Forgive them all in Your mercy, that I may share the hope of the prophets, the song of the angels, and the wonder of the shepherds. Cleanse my soul that Your Son, when He comes, may find in me a dwelling place.

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 Lynn M. Portz

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 89:1-4

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir; Claudia Benack, soprano; Kevin Gruden, tenor
In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day, a breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay; enough for Him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore. What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can, I give Him – give my heart.

Text: Christina Rossetti, 1872

SCRIPTURE

Romans 16:25-27

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Reverend Dr. John A. Dalles

The Mystery Is Disclosed

▲ HYMN OF RESPONSE 22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
(Refrain:) Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: *(Refrain)*
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star: *(Refrain)*
4. All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One: *(Refrain)*

Text: Stanzas 1-3, James Montgomery, 1816, 1825. Stanza 4, *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857.
Music: Henry Thomas Smart, 1867.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Reverend Todd E. Leach

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

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

Magnificat

Michael McCabe

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir Ensemble

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is His name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away. He, remembering His mercy, hath holpen His servant Israel; as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham, and his seed forever. 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.

Text: Luke 1:46-55

▲ 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 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
(Refrain:) *Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*
2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. (Refrain)
3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die;
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. (Refrain)

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840.

Arrangement: William Hayman Cummings, 1855.

▲ 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

The white poinsettias in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Richard D. Baker Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Baker, and Susan Dunstan Baker.

Singing in the Chancel Choir Ensemble this morning are Meghan DeWald Althouse, Dr. Kathy Linger, and Gail Roup, soprano; Jane M. Boyle and Jolanta Doherty, alto; Dr. Mark A. Boyle, Alex Sabo, and Timothy Stoddard, tenor; Brian Doherty, baritone; and Hayden Keefer, bass.

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 Dr. Mark A. Boyle for his assistance in recording the Chancel Choir Ensemble’s video segments.

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!

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. Wrapped gifts should be returned to the church by noon on Wednesday, December 23, with gift tag attached. 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.

Offering envelopes have been mailed to those who requested envelopes when making their 2021 stewardship pledge. If you have not already done so and you would like to receive offering envelopes, please contact the Finance Office.

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.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS) seeks its next president. The search committee invites congregational communities such as ours to share suggestions of prospective candidates whom the committee might consider to lead PTS into the future. For more information, please visit www.pts.edu/Presidential-Search. To recommend an individual, you may contact Eliza Smith Brown, chair of the search committee, or Jim Gockley, president of the PTS Board of Directors, both of whom are members of our congregation. Alternatively, names may be submitted to a general mailbox at PTSPresident@agbsearch.com.

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. (Note: The evening prayer group will not meet on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. Meetings resume Thursday, January 7.)

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.

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!

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, 2021, at 9:45 a.m.

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 Thursday.

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, January 7, 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. 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 videoconferencing. Also, later in January, we will begin our next study, which will continue through Lent. Consider obtaining your copy of *He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart*, by Max Lucado, so you can be prepared for the Lenten study. Join us as together we seek to quench the thirsting of our souls!

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 20 - 27

TODAY <i>December 20</i>	11:00 a.m.	Virtual Worship on YouTube and Facebook – Fourth Sunday of Advent
	11:45 a.m.	Virtual Time of Fellowship via Zoom Videoconferencing
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	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Giving Tree Gifts Due
	7:00 p.m.	No Virtual Vespers
THURSDAY		Christmas Eve – Offices Close at 12:30 p.m.
	8:00 p.m.	Virtual Christmas Eve Service on YouTube and Facebook
FRIDAY		Christmas Day – Building Closed
	7:30 p.m.	Evening Scripture and Prayer Gathering via Zoom Videoconferencing
SUNDAY <i>December 27</i>		No Adult Christian Education Classes
	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 – First Sunday of Christmas Rev. Dr. John A. Dalles, preaching
	11:45 a.m.	Virtual Time of Fellowship via Zoom Videoconferencing

Daily Prayer Lectionary Readings

..... December 20 - 27

Sunday, December 20 Psalms 24; 150 Isaiah 28:9-22 Revelation 20:11-21:8 Luke 1:5-25	Tuesday, December 22 Psalms 33; 146 Isaiah 31:1-9 Revelation 21:22-22:5 Luke 1:39-48a (48b-56)	Thursday, December 24 Psalms 18:1-20; 147:12-20 Isaiah 35:1-10 Revelation 22:12-17, 21 Luke 1:67-80	Saturday, December 26 Psalms 116; 149 2 Chronicles 24:17-22 Acts 6:1-7 Acts 7:59-8:8
Monday, December 21 Psalms 122; 145 Isaiah 29:9-24 Revelation 21:9-21 Luke 1:26-38	Wednesday, December 23 Psalms 50; 147:1-11 Isaiah 33:17-22 Revelation 22:6-11, 18-20 Luke 1:57-66	Friday, December 25 Psalms 2; 148 Zechariah 2:10-13 1 John 4:7-16 John 3:31-36	Sunday, December 27 Psalms 34; 150 Isaiah 62:6-7, 10-12 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 1:18-25

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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