

Welcome to Shadyside Presbyterian Church

We are grateful you have joined us in worship today, whether you are present with us physically or are gathering with us in spirit online.

As God calls us to care for one another and our community, we highly recommend that, regardless of your vaccination status, you wear face coverings over your nose and mouth at all times while inside the building and maintain six feet of distance from others. The transept pews continue to offer socially distant seating to maintain a safer area for those who are not vaccinated.

If you are worshipping with us virtually, please let us know you joined us online today by completing the form at www.shadysidepres.org/check-in. Prayer requests also may be submitted via this form.

Nursery care is available for infants through two-year-olds during worship in the Nazareth Room downstairs. Pagers are available. A cry room is available in the Parlor. Worship activity bags and a bulletin insert designed for children are available in the Narthex.

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. After worship, please leave your hearing device in the pew so that we can collect it and properly sanitize it.

A video feed of worship is available in the Craig Room, accessible through the Narthex at the back of the Sanctuary. Maximum occupancy in the Craig Room is limited to four individuals.

Livestreaming Notice - In order to extend the reach of God's Word, Shadyside Presbyterian Church records its services of worship and broadcasts them live on the internet. If you have a privacy concern, please see an usher to be directed to a seating area where you may avoid being visible to our cameras.

For Your Safety - Please know that the church is committed to following the COVID-19 protocols for cleaning and sanitizing the Sanctuary, both before and after each service.

! 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, God's peace.

PRELUDE

Gesù Bambino

Pietro A. Yon

CAROL IN PROCESSION

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

Gail E. Roup, soprano; Jolanta Doherty, alto; Mark A. Boyle, tenor; Brian C. Doherty, baritone

1. (SOLO) Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.
2. (QUARTET) He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

▲ ORGAN INTERLUDE

3. (ALL) For He is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us He grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew:
And He feeleth for our sadness, and He shareth in our gladness.
4. (ALL) And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.
5. (ALL) Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895).

Music: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849. Harmonization: Arthur Henry Mann, 1919.

BIDDING 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.

▲ *Congregants are invited to stand or to assume another reverent posture in praise of God.*

INVITATORY CHOIR CAROL

Angelus

Aaron David Miller

The angel said to the shepherds: "I bring you tidings of great joy, for the Savior of the world has been born." Alleluia. He shall be called Mighty God. Alleluia.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3

Mr. Rob W. Anderson
page 2 of the Old Testament in the pew Bible

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

CHOIR CAROL

This Is the Truth Sent from Above

Michael McCabe

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. And 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. And at that season of the year, our blest Redeemer did appear. He here did live, and here did preach, and many thousands He did teach. Thus He in love to us behaved, to show us how we must be saved; and if you want to know the way, be pleased to hear what He did say.

Text: Herefordshire folk song

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22

Miss Harper A. Davies
page 17 of the Old Testament in the pew Bible

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

▲ CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In dulci jubilo

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin. Translation and paraphrase: John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.
Music: German folk tune, 14th century. Harmonization: David Hugh Jones, 1953.

THIRD LESSON

Mr. Micah M. Shelley

Isaiah 60

page 690 of the Old Testament in the pew Bible

The prophet in exile foresees the coming of the glory of the Lord.

SOLO CAROL

The Sun Shall Be No More Thy Light

Maurice Greene

Brian C. Doherty, baritone

The sun shall be no more thy light by day, neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee; but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

Text: Isaiah 60:19

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11

Ms. Laura C. Duncan, *Elder*

page 640 of the Old Testament in the pew Bible

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL *(seated)*

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Es ist ein' Ros'

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-gone was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
When half-gone was the night.
3. This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
True Man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us,
And lightens every load.

Text: Stanzas 1-2, German carol, 15th century; translation: Theodore Baker (1851-1934), alt.

Stanza 3, Friedrich Layritz, 1875; translation: Harriet Reynolds Krauth.

Music: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1599;
arranged by Michael Praetorius, 1609.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1

Ms. Emma R. Balaan, *Deacon*

page 56 of the New Testament in the pew Bible

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CHOIR CAROL

Magnificat

Leslie Betteridge

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

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2

Dr. Mark A. Boyle
page 58 of the New Testament in the pew Bible

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL *(seated)*

Away in a Manger

Cradle Song

1. Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, ca. 1885.
Stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892. Music: William James Kirkpatrick, 1895.

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2

The shepherds go to the manger.

Mr. Robert G. Mayer Jr., *Elder*

page 58 of the New Testament in the pew Bible

CHOIR CAROL

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Carl Schalk

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word, I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred; but there is room and welcome there for me; but there is room and welcome there for me. In that unlikely place I find Him as they said: Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! And in a manger bed: A still, small voice to cry one day for me; a still, small voice to cry one day for me. How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare: A Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me; a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me. Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned Its way into my heart—unmasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me; to die, to live, and not alone for me?

Text: Jaroslav Vajda

▲ CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

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.

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

The Reverend Kendra L. Buckwalter Smith

page 2 of the New Testament in the pew Bible

CHOIR CAROL

There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth, from *Christus* Felix Mendelssohn
There shall a Star from Jacob come forth, and a Scepter from Israel rise up, and dash in pieces princes and nations. How brightly beams the Morningstar, with sudden radiance from afar with light and comfort glowing. Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, O praise, such love o'erflowing!

Text: Matthew 2:1-2; Numbers 24:17; Psalm 2:9.

Original German text compiled by Christian Charles Josias von Bunsen.

NINTH LESSON

John 1

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

The Reverend Austin Crenshaw Shelley

page 91 of the New Testament in the pew Bible

▲ CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels! (*Refrain:*)
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
2. See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,
Leaving their flocks_, draw_ nigh_ to gaze;
We, too, will thither bend our joyful footsteps; (*Refrain*)
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (*Refrain*)
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee_ be all glo—ry given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (*Refrain*)

Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786). Translation: Frederick Oakeley, 1841.

Music: John Francis Wade. Harmonization: *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

▲ COLLECT AND BLESSING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister: Let us pray. O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Thine only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All: Amen.

Minister: Christ, who by His incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach

Soli Deo gloria!

Thank you for worshiping with us today! Following the service, please continue your social distancing once outside the Sanctuary.

Today in Shadyside Presbyterian Church

Ushers - Ellen L. Allston, Brian P. Davies, and Carey T. Vinson

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

Mark A. Anderson, conductor • Justin M. Wallace, assistant organist

Meghan DeWald Althouse	Karen B. Crenshaw	Meredith Kelly	Anastasia Robinson
Geoffrey Arnold	Brian C. Doherty	Kathy Linger	Gail E. Roup
Loghan Bazan Wright	Jolanta Doherty	Christopher Lynch	Jennifer Saunders-LaRocco
Jane M. Boyle	Ashley Episcopo	Margaret A. Ross Mehl	Erin Schmura
Lauren E. Boyle	Ellen Fast	Boyd S. Murray	Lloyd F. Stamy Jr.
Mark A. Boyle	Llewellyn Gravely	Timothy E. Nye	Richard A. Walker
Jamie N. Burrows	Hayden Keefer	Ivan Plazačić	

News and Notes

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!

Current COVID-19 Status – Services of worship at Shadyside Presbyterian Church continue to be held on-site and online. All individuals are asked to wear masks while in the building. Most church-related activities will continue to occur online, and the church office is open during weekday business hours. The COVID-19 Task Force continues to meet regularly to monitor data and to prayerfully discern our path forward.

Masking Protocol – The Shadyside Presbyterian Church COVID-19 Task Force, consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, highly recommends wearing face coverings while indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Out of care and concern for our congregation and community, the task force requests that we follow this guidance while inside the church building, including throughout the service of worship. Please be aware that our worship leaders in the Chancel may be unmasked at times in order to carry out their worship responsibilities. Thank you for your patience and for prioritizing the well-being of others.

Christmas Poinsettias – As part of our Christmas celebration at Shadyside, the Board of Deacons is providing the opportunity for the placement of poinsettias in the Sanctuary during the worship services on Christmas Eve. We also invite you to support the church’s flower fund and place loved ones’ names in the bulletin. The cost per plant is \$9. Visit www.shadysidepres.org/poinsettia today, December 5, for details and access to the online ordering form. Please know you also may place your order or submit your loved ones’ names by contacting Kaysie Strickland in the church office. You are welcome to order a poinsettia to take home or to be delivered to those who would be blessed to receive one during this holiday season.

An Advent Walk with Isaiah – Shadyside Presbyterian Church’s Children’s Ministry invites you to participate in our first-ever Advent Walk, beginning at 5:30 p.m. today, December 5. Following the words of the prophet Isaiah, this outdoor event will feature five interactive stations where groups pause to read Scripture, ponder specific questions, and join together in an activity. We will journey through the Advent story and, at the conclusion of the walk, groups will be given a kit to continue Advent devotions at home. Participants are welcome to stay and enjoy hot apple cider, hot cocoa, and fellowship around a fire pit before heading home.

The Giving Tree will support the parents of several of our mission partners: Sojourner House; Sojourner House’s Mentoring, Opportunity, Motivation, and Spirituality (MOMS) program; and the Pennsylvania Organization for Women in Early Recovery (POWER). During the Time of Fellowship on Sunday, December 12, two trees in the Parish Hall will be decorated with special ornaments listing gift recipients’ names and details, including clothing/shoe size and color preference. Coordinators will be present to register your name along with the name of the recipient. Wrapped gifts should be returned to the church by noon on Monday, December 20; please affix to the package a gift tag indicating the name or initials of the recipient, along with the recipient’s identification number. A virtual selection process also is available; please visit www.shadysidepres.org/giving-tree for details. If you have questions, please contact Kaysie Strickland in the church office.

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.

Children's Chapel - The Children's Ministry of Shadyside Presbyterian Church invites families to gather with us – online or on-site – for our weekly chapel time on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Children enjoy singing songs, hearing a story from the Bible, and praying with us. If friends cannot join us in person, our live webcast is available on the church's YouTube channel. Previous videos may be viewed at any time throughout the week. We're looking forward to celebrating Jesus with you!

Celebration of Hope at Hosanna House - This month, volunteers are needed for the Celebration of Hope at Hosanna House. During this outdoor event, approximately 350 families will pass by the facility and receive toys for children, warm weather gear, and food. Helpers are needed on Friday, December 10, from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. Volunteers also are sought to help on the day before to decorate several live trees (time to be determined). Please contact Elder Carla Gedman through the church office if you can participate.

The Neighborhood Academy's Virtual Lessons and Carols - This Advent season, you can support The Neighborhood Academy (TNA) by participating in their virtual "Lessons and Carols" program on Thursday, December 16, at 5:30 p.m. A link will be provided on TNA's website: www.theneighborhoodacademy.org.

Promised Land Ministries Student Sponsorships - This holiday season, 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 uniforms, materials, and annual tuition. To learn more, or to sponsor one of the students, please contact Kaysie Strickland at kstrickland@shadysidepres.org.

Pledges and Year-End Giving - As we come to the close of the year, please consider whether you have fully contributed your pledge amount for this current year. For those of you who are in a position to make additional year-end charitable contributions, please remember the church in your giving. All gifts and contributions intended for calendar year 2021 need to be received by 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 30, in order to be included in this year. Looking ahead, if you have not made your pledge for 2022, please do so by returning your form to the church, or pledge online by visiting www.shadysidepres.org/pledge. We greatly appreciate the many pledge forms that have already been received.

Midweek Vespers will not be held on Wednesdays, December 22 and 29, 2021, and Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Vespers resume on Wednesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and online.

Christian Education Classes will not be held at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 26, 2021, and Sunday, January 2, 2022. Education classes for children and youth will resume on Sunday, January 9, at 10:00 a.m.

Church History and Architecture Books – Shadyside Presbyterian Church has published two books authored by Elder Timothy C. Engleman which explore the church’s history and architecture in depth. Both may be purchased through the church office; order forms are available in the Narthex and on the church website.

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.

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.

Live Webcast – Watch a live video 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 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 website, www.shadysidepres.org, provides additional information about the church’s programs and activities, as well as access to archival recordings of worship.

Mission Partnerships of Shadyside Presbyterian Church

The mission outreach efforts of Shadyside Presbyterian Church range from educating community youth and feeding the homeless, to international efforts of caring for orphans and promoting health care. Please visit www.shadysidepres.org/serve-others for more information regarding the church’s local, national, and international mission partners.

A Ceremony of Carols

..... *Saturday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m.*

The Pittsburgh Girls Choir’s holiday concert with harpist Nuiko Wadden features Benjamin Britten’s beloved *A Ceremony of Carols*.
Tickets: www.pittsburghgirlschoir.com.

Christmas with the Camerata

..... *Sunday, December 12, at 3:00 p.m.*

Pittsburgh’s premier professional chamber choir, under the direction of Mark A. Anderson, presents a concert of choral music for the season. Tickets: www.pittsburghcamerata.org or at the door.

MUSIC IN A GREAT SPACE

..... *The Concert Series at Shadyside Presbyterian Church*

Music in a Great Space, the concert series at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, presents its 29th season.

We invite you to join us for these concerts and other music-filled events in the life of Shadyside Presbyterian Church – all presented in our awe-inspiring Richardsonian Romanesque sanctuary.

2021-2022 Concert Season

Sunday, January 16, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Marco Panuccio, tenor, and Ellen Fast, piano

Virtual only; access concert from www.youtube.com/c/ShadysidePresbyterianChurch.

Sunday, February 13, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Nicole Keller, organist

Co-sponsored by the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh

Tickets available from www.organseries.com or at the door.

Saturday, March 26, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

The Crossing

Donald McNally, conductor

Tickets available from the Shadyside Presbyterian Church office; cost: \$15 each.

Sunday, April 3, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Eric Rieger, tenor, and J.J. Penna, piano

No tickets required for admission; donations appreciated.

For more information, please call 412.682.4300, or visit www.shadysidepres.org. Receive e-mail announcements from Shadyside's Music Ministry by emailing info@shadysidepres.org with "Subscribe Music List" in the subject line.

The Music in a Great Space concert series is made possible by a grant from the William E. Saul Fund of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church, an endowment created by Mr. Saul in memory of his mother, Lydia Schulze Saul.

Vespers in Advent

..... *Wednesdays, December 8 and 15, at 7:00 p.m.*

During the liturgical season of Advent, Shadyside Presbyterian Church invites you to join us on Wednesdays for an evening of music and reflection in our Sanctuary or online. These 45-minute candlelight Communion services include homilies from the Reverend Austin Crenshaw Shelley; the celebration of the Lord's Supper; and music offered by the Shadyside Strings, Chatham Baroque, and the Pittsburgh Girls Choir.

History of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. (He devised King's Advent Carol Service in 1934, and was a liturgical pioneer and authority during his twenty-two years as Dean of York.) The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, organist from 1876 to 1929. The choir included sixteen trebles as laid down in King Henry VI's statutes, but until 1927 the men's voices were provided partly by Choral Scholars and partly by older Lay Clerks, and not, as now, by fourteen undergraduates.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn "Once in Royal David's City." In almost every year, some carols have been changed and some new ones introduced by successive organists: Arthur Henry Mann; Boris Ord, 1929-1957; Harold Darke (his substitute during the war), 1940-1945; Sir David Willcocks, 1957-1973; Philip Ledger, 1974-1982; and, from 1982, Stephen Cleobury. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged.

The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1880. A.C. Benson recalled: "My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop." The suggestion had come from G.H.S. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh.

Almost immediately, other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when the service was first broadcast in 1928, and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel and the name of King's could not be broadcast for security reasons. Sometime in the early 1930s, the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programs. It is estimated that there are millions of listeners worldwide, including those to Radio Four in the United Kingdom. In recent years, it has become the practice to broadcast a digital recording on Christmas Day on Radio Three, and since 1963 a shorter service has been filmed periodically for television. Recordings of carols by Decca and EMI have also served to spread its fame.

In these and other ways, the service has become public property. From time to time, the College receives copies of services held, for example, in the West Indies or the Far East, and these show how widely the tradition has spread. The broadcasts, too, have become part of Christmas for many far from Cambridge. One correspondent writes that he heard the service in a tent on the foothills of Everest; another, in the desert. Many listen at home, busy about their own preparations for Christmas. Visitors from all over the world are heard to identify the Chapel as "the place where the carols are sung."

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. “The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God . . .” seen “through the windows and words of the Bible.” Local interests appear, as they do here, in the bidding prayer, and personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage “all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light.” The center of the service is still found by those who “go in heart and mind” and who consent to follow where the story leads.

To-night ungather'd let us leave
This laurel, let this holly stand:
We live within the stranger's land,
And strangely falls our Christmas-eve.

Our father's dust is left alone
And silent under other snows:
There in due time the woodbine blows,
The violet comes, but we are gone.

Let cares that petty shadows cast,
By which our lives are chiefly proved,
A little spare the night I loved,
And hold it solemn to the past.

But let no footstep beat the floor,
Nor bowl of wassail mantle warm;
For who would keep an ancient form
Thro' which the spirit breathes no more?

Be neither song, nor game, nor feast;
Nor harp be touch'd, nor flute be blown;
No dance, no motion, save alone
What lightens in the lucid east

Of rising worlds by yonder wood.
Long sleeps the summer in the seed;
Run out your measured arcs, and lead
The closing cycle rich in good.

“In Memoriam,” CV – Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Text adapted from the website of King's College, Cambridge: www.kings.cam.ac.uk

Christmas Eve

..... Friday, 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 prelude featuring harpist Nuiko Wadden beginning at 7:40 p.m. and concludes with a ceremony of lights as the congregation sings "Silent Night."

Church Staff

Austin Crenshaw Shelley, *Senior Pastor and Head of Staff*

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

Kendra L. Buckwalter Smith, *Associate Pastor for Discipleship*

Wesley C. Smith, *Student Assistant Pastor*

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

Mark A. Anderson, *Director of Music Ministry*

Peter F. Bodnar, *Director of Communications*

Jane M. Boyle, *Associate for Children's Music*

Steven M. Bright, *Hospitality Coordinator*

Judy A. Brust, *Accountant*

Johnnie L. Bryant III, *Sexton*

Robert A. Coder, *Director of Finance*

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

Della L. Ellard, *Administrative Assistant*

Joseph A. Figliuolo, *Music Administrator*

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

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

Dennis H. Martin, *Head Sexton*

Jesse B. Naus, *Audio/Visual Engineer*

Bobby C. Pack Jr., *Sexton*

Nancy M. Shaytar, *Director of Finance Emerita*

Jamie G. Shipley, *Associate for Children's Ministry*

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

Justin M. Wallace, *Assistant Organist*

Cover: Detail of Advent candle in the Chancel of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 2017.

Photograph taken by Nick Conti.

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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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