

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.

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

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.

All children are invited to attend this service of worship with their families; therefore, there is no nursery care available this evening.

A cry room is available in the Parlor, accessible through the transept door at the front of the Sanctuary.

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.

Concerning the Ceremony of Lights – Worshippers will have received candles with wax guards upon entering the nave. These will be used during the Ceremony of Lights occurring at the conclusion of the service. The ushers will light the first candle in each pew on the aisle, and each worshipper will then share with his or her neighbor, representing the presence of Christ in the world with His neighbor. For safety, please always tilt the unlighted candle toward the lighted one. (Never tilt a lighted candle.) Small plastic cups have been provided in the pews for extinguishing candles so that masking protocols can be maintained. Please return your candle to the baskets in the Narthex as you exit.

Prayer Request Cards are available in the pews and in the Narthex for you to share the names of those who are sick or in need of intercessory prayer, as well as prayers of joy and thanksgiving.

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.

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.

Restrooms can be accessed by exiting the back of the Sanctuary and turning right. Additional restrooms are located at the top of the grand staircase through the Sharp Atrium.

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

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Reverend Austin Crenshaw Shelley

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Patrick Boyle, Lily F. Hunter, and Micah M. Shelley

Leader: We have watched; we have waited in hope, for peace, in joy, with love. Now our salvation has drawn near! With the psalmist we share the good news:

People: **O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples.**

Leader: May this light be a sign to us and to the world of all that has taken place which the Lord has made known to us.

People: **Christ's light shines in our darkness. Glory to God in the highest!**

Incorporating Psalm 96:1-3

▲ HYMN 49

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

1. (CHILDREN'S CHOIRS) 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. (TREBLE VOICES) 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.
3. (ALL CHILDREN) 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. (BASS VOICES) 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.

(hymn continues on page 4)

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

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.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

The Reverend Kendra L. Buckwalter Smith

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

page 638 of the Old Testament in the pew Bible

HYMN 40 *(congregation seated)*

Joy to the World!

Antioch

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. 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.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

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

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-35

Nicolas Rychener-Gonzalez
page 56 of the New Testament in the pew Bible

HYMN 31 (congregation seated)

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;
arranged by William Hayman Cummings, 1855.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

John Gregory Baldrige

page 58 of the New Testament in the pew Bible

OFFERING ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Emilyanne G. Shelley, soloist

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior’s birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine! Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!

Text: Placide Cappeau, 1847. Translation: John S. Dwight.

Offerings may be dropped off in the offering plate as you depart the Sanctuary this evening.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-18

Julia Doherty

page 58 of the New Testament in the pew Bible

HYMN 25 (congregation seated)

Away in a Manger

Mueller

1. Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
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 attributed to James R. Murray, 1887.
Harmonization © 1990 John Weaver. All rights reserved.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-11

Anthony C. Narcisi
page 2 of the New Testament in the pew Bible

▲ HYMN 56 (verses 1, 2, and 5)

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
(Refrain:) *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*
2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
(Refrain:) *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

(hymn continues on page 7)

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
Fell reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presence,
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

(Refrain:) Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Text: English carol, 17th century. Music: English carol, Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833.

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-14

Vanessa Rychener-Gonzalez

page 91 of the New Testament in the pew Bible

INTRODUCTION TO CANDLE LIGHTING

Spencer W. Amole, William Krofchik,
Brooklyn E. Potter, and Zander B. Reppe

HYMN 60 *(congregation seated)*

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and Child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace. 3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born." 4. Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born. |
|---|--|

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John Freeman Young, 1863. Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818.

BENEDICTION

At the conclusion of the Benediction, please extinguish your candle using the plastic cup provided in the pew. Please return your candles to the baskets in the Narthex upon leaving the Sanctuary.

POSTLUDE

Soli Deo gloria!

Thank you for celebrating the Nativity of the Lord with us! Shadyside Presbyterian Church wishes you, the ones you love, and the ones whom only God loves a blessed Christmas!

This Afternoon from Shadyside Presbyterian Church

The white poinsettias in the Sanctuary this afternoon 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.

.....

Participants in This Afternoon's Service

Mary

Alessandra A. Narcisi

Joseph

Oliver M. Davies

Angel

Maria E. Doherty

Christian R. Narcisi

Magi

Brooklyn E. Potter

Hudson A. Potter

Elizabeth G. Baldrige

Virginia A. Baldrige

Shepherds and Angel Host

Brooks M. Haden

Carter W. Haden

Everett C. Haden

Lillian J. Shelley

Ruby K. Shelley

Choristers

John Gregory Baldrige

Harper A. Davies

Oliver M. Davies

Nicolas Rychener-Gonzalez

Vanessa Rychener-Gonzalez

Ruby K. Shelley

Gabriella Viehman

Training Choir

Elizabeth G. Baldrige

Virginia A. Baldrige

Ethan T. R. Kim

Jane O. Kline

Robert W. Viehman

Children's Choir Directors

Jane M. Boyle

Stephen M. Donnelly

Organist

Justin M. Wallace

Sound Technician

Jesse B. Naus

Video Technician

Mark A. Boyle

Mackenna K. Amole

Brooks M. Haden

Greeters and Ushers

Carter W. Haden

Everett C. Haden

Hudson A. Potter

Quinn A. Reppe

Lillian J. Shelley

Friends and families, thank you for supporting the Children and Youth Ministries of Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

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.

If you use offering envelopes, they will be available in the Sharp Atrium today and Sunday, December 26. Please help the church to economize on mailing costs by picking up your envelopes.

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 again on Sunday, January 9! (Due to the holidays, there will be no chapel on Sundays, December 26 and January 2.)

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

New Study for "Women at the Well" in January – Women of all ages are welcome to gather online with the "Women at the Well" for in-depth Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. In general, the group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon via Zoom videoconferencing, but please check the calendar for exceptions. Our next virtual gathering occurs Thursday, January 13, when we begin our new study led by Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ: Investigating the Evidence for Jesus*. For more information or meeting access instructions, please contact Deacon Connie Coffelt through the church office.

This Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Shadyside Presbyterian Church's Mission and Urban Ministry invites you to an all-church service day in partnership with East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM). We will gather at the church at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 17, to prepare the evening meal for the EECM shelter. That evening, at 5:30 p.m., we will meet at the EECM Community House in East Liberty (6140 Station Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206) to serve dinner to shelter guests. To participate, please sign up online in January or contact the church office. For further information, please contact the Reverend Kendra Buckwalter Smith or Deacon Adam Loucks through the church office.

Bedding and Pillow Collection – On Sunday, January 30, Shadyside Presbyterian Church will hold its annual bedding and pillow collection for Off the Floor Pittsburgh, one of our local mission partners. Most-needed items include gender-neutral bedding and complete bedding sets for mattress sizes twin/single, full/double, and queen. All pillows must be new by state law. Towels, washcloths, and blankets of all sizes (especially queen) also are welcome. Please label all donations with the appropriate size and bring them to the Off the Floor truck, which will be located outside the Parish Hall before and after worship on January 30. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. In addition, volunteers are always needed for deliveries and for warehouse cleaning and arranging. Consider joining a group working in Off the Floor's warehouse any day in January. For information, please contact Elder Laura Duncan through the church office.

Nursery School Registering Students for 2022-2023 – The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Nursery School (SPCNS) offers developmentally appropriate classes on weekday mornings (September through May) for two-, three-, four-, and pre-kindergarten five-year-olds. Currently, SPCNS is accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Returning students and SPC members receive enrollment preference. Please call Director Mary Lang at 412-681-6311, or visit the school’s website: shadysideschool.org.

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.

Shadyside Presbyterian Church’s Meal Train Ministry provides meals for individuals or families in need. As needs arise, such as the celebration of a new baby or recuperation after surgery, Meal Train Ministry members are notified by email and invited to sign up through an online calendar if they are available to cook. Volunteers may either deliver the meal, or bring it frozen to the church for someone else to deliver. We are always looking for more cooks, and you are welcome to participate as your schedule allows. If you do not cook, or if you would prefer to provide a “contact-free” meal during COVID-19, another great way to participate would be to utilize delivery from Grubhub, DoorDash, a local restaurant, or a grocery store. For more information or to sign up, please contact Deacon Jan Collins by email: spchelpers@gmail.com.

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.

Christmas Eve

..... Friday, December 24, in the Sanctuary

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 Artwork: The designs for the cover artwork of this afternoon’s bulletin were created by the children who participate in the Christian education programs of Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

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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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