



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

MAXWELL STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
180 E. Maxwell St. Lexington, KY
www.maxpres.org

Welcome to Maxwell Street! We hope you will consider wearing a nametag so that we might get to know one another better. They can be found in the lobbies outside the sanctuary. You can find more helpful information inside this bulletin.

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - *Christmas Medley*, Betty Jean Chatham, Susan Carey, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,
“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?
For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

**On this first Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have come to worship
Jesus the Messiah: the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down,
paid him homage, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**On this first Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to you, O God.**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

+ **HYMN 152** - *What Star is This, with Beams So Bright*

+ CALL TO CONFESSION

+ A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests. Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

- ASSURANCE OF PARDON
- RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS: Hymn 581, (*Gloria Patri*)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

Almighty God, the gospel writer John tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us." As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, may we hear and see the glory of Jesus Christ and receive grace upon grace. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the written testimony to the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM - *Carol of the Birds*, John Jacob Niles, Cindi Kubar and Stephanie Spencer

SCRIPTURE READING - Hebrews 2:10-18

SERMON - *Pondering and Anticipation* - Ruling Elder Janet Lumpp

RESPONSIVE READING - Songs of Mary and Zechariah (see insert)

STATEMENT OF FAITH - From the Confession of 1967

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

+ HYMN 109 - *Blest Be the God of Israel*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

- INVITATION
- OFFERTORY
- DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

- PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+ HYMN 143 - *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE - Hymn 134, *Joy to the World*, verses 1 and 4

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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.

POSTLUDE - *Christmas Joy*, Albin Whitworth



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church. We're so glad you've chosen to be with us today for worship. This bulletin will be a helpful guide to our service, but here is some additional information we hope will help you feel at home.

Maxwell Street Presbyterian is a More Light Congregation. More Light Presbyterians are dedicated to allowing the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society. You are welcome here, and you are loved.

• A Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church App is available from the Apple and Google App Stores. This App will enable you to register your attendance, make an offering online, and more. You can scan the QR code to the left to access the app. You can also sign in via the app.

• You can also go to www.maxpres.org/give to support our ministry.

• Please be aware that today's service is being live-streamed and recorded. Portions of the service, including video and audio, may be shared online. By attending, you acknowledge that your image and/or voice may appear in these recordings.

• LARGE PRINT BIBLES and BULLETINS are available from the ushers.

• Hearing help is available with a personal amplification device from the ushers.

• For your convenience, an elevator is located in the Lobby off the parking lot/playground.

• WIFI - Router Name: Maxwell - ORBI38 Password: maxpres180

• Accessible restrooms are on the main level and basement level. Baby changing stations are available in the basement restrooms or nursery.

Infants & Toddlers are welcome in the Nursery following Children's Moment or anytime during the morning. Come to the Young Children's Area in the basement. Professional caregivers and church volunteers will greet you there.

Sunday School During December - Please note there will be no Sunday School through the Advent Season until January, when school begins. Children are welcome in Worship and nursery care will remain open. Children infant - age 7 will be welcome in the nursery during that time.

WAYS TO LEARN MORE

Please visit www.maxpres.org for details about our ministries for all ages and interests. We also have an active Facebook page - www.facebook.com/maxpres. If you would like to be added to our Friday email, which has information about what is going on in the church's life, you may do so at: www.maxpres.org. If you have additional questions, Matt will be happy to talk with you at your convenience; call the church office at (859) 255-1074, 9am-4:30pm Monday-Thursday.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Hugh Huffman, Greg Harper, Cindy and Allen Gayheart, Carolyn Hale, Joyce Crofts, Kenny, Elizabeth Leatherman's father; Martin Hendrix's mother; Kenny Way, Kaye Morgan's son-in-law

We extend our condolences to the Goulson family on the death of Dan Goulson last week. Please keep their family in your prayers.

We extend our condolences to the Huffman family on the death of Hugh Huffman this week. Please remember their family in your prayer.

Punch is served in the West Parlor by Jim Olive. All are invited.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Ruling Elder Janet Lumpp, Gretchen Bishay, Ted Gentry, Susan Carey, Cindi Kubar, Stephanie Spencer and the Chancel Choir

USHERS: Tracy Bruno, Cynthia Bruno, Alicia Hart, and Zane Kerksmar

VIDEO AND SOUND CREW: Rich Copley, Jim Lumpp, Bill Smith, Jay Vessels, Jonah Falco

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, December 28, 2025

First Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm: Psalm 148

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 30

12:30pm – Centering Prayer

Thursday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Friday, January 2

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 4

9:30am – Adult Sunday School

10:30am – Worship

WORDS & WINE

Friday, January 2, at 6:30pm

Words & Wine Book Group will meet Friday, January 2, the book is *Playground* by Richard Powers. Questions, contact Lauren Falco (laurenefalco@yahoo.com).

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Salvation Across the Ages

Begins Jan 11, 9:30am in Library

Rev Douglas Ensminger will lead this AI aided class presenting classic perspectives on salvation from historical figures and modern theologians. It is designed to help participants reflect on their own understanding of salvation by engaging in dialogue with these voices. The conversations will culminate as each participant shares what salvation means to them personally. January 11- Paul and Augustine; 1/18- Aquinas; 1/25- Luther and Calvin; 2/1-Johnson and Guterrez; 2/8 YOU.

KERYGMA CLASS

Begin Jan 14, 10:30am in Library

New class starting January 14th: Our conversation will center on “From Judgement to Hope: A Study on the Prophets” by Walter Brueggeman. While conservative interpreters might believe that prophets were predictors and progressives believe the prophets to be simply social advocates, Walter Brueggemann argues that the prophets were emancipated imaginers of alternative. Emancipated from the dominant thinking of their societies, the prophets imagined an alternative reality and invited listeners to join them in their commitment to that new reality. Join us Wednesdays at 10:30AM in the Library.

3RD SPACE SUNDAY

Sunday, January 18

3rd Space Sunday (aka Donut Sunday) happens on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. I hope you'll join us for 3rd Space Sunday!

STITCHMATES

2nd and 4th Saturdays at noon

We meet twice a month on the second Saturday in the Church Library. Bring the projects you are working on and enjoy this time of fellowship! Questions, contact Elise (elisekalika56@gmail.com).

FLOWERS DURING WORSHIP

Sponsoring flowers during worship is a meaningful way to honor a special event, celebrate an anniversary or birthday, or remember a loved one, while also making our sanctuary beautiful for our Worship services. Arrangements are \$50, and you can sign up easily on the bulletin board in the Punch Parlor.

YOUTH

Jan 4 - No Youth

Jan 11 - Youth Group After Service

Jan 18 - Youth Group After Service, Confirmation begins

Jan 25 - Youth Group After Service

Jan. 31 - Ski Trip

YOUTH SKI TRIP

Saturday, January 31 | 8:30am



The youth group hits the slopes at Perfect North on Saturday, January 31st. We will leave the church around 8:30AM and leave Perfect North to return home at 7:30PM. The cost per skier is \$40 plus about \$15-20 for lunch, but scholarships are available. Don't let cost prevent you from joining us! Sign up with the QR Code.

THAT'S AMORE!

YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Save the Date: Sunday, February 22

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2026

APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT

Sunday July 19, 2026 - Saturday, July 25, 2026

Cost: \$350 (Scholarships Available)



Each summer, ASP serves 20-30 communities across Central Appalachia. This year we'll be in eastern Kentucky, providing home repairs while offering our youth a meaningful cultural and transformational experience. There's no deposit due today, but please register

ASAP so we can plan. A \$100 deposit is due February 1, with the remaining balance due June 1. Scholarships are available, contact Rob for details. Sign up with the QR Code.

MISSION

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the generous endowment funds, MSPC, and our community partners, the social work department is gearing up for an active 2026. We intend to launch the clothing closet and add an extra day each month, enabling us to extend our support further than ever to our neighbors in need. We will keep forging new partnerships within the community in an effort to broaden our overall outreach to those who require assistance. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all for your support of the social work department and the progress we anticipate in the upcoming year. I can't wait to see what it has in store!

KROGER REWARDS HELP FEED OUR COMMUNITY!

You may notice the line item in the church budget for Coupons for Missions. What is that? What does it mean? It simply refers to the proceeds we receive from the Kroger Rewards Program. Since the creation of the Kroger Rewards system in 2003, church members connected their Kroger Reward card to benefit Maxwell Street and its hunger ministries. Sign in to your Kroger account, select Community Rewards and choose Maxwell Street (VK950). We appreciate it!

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)
D Bm A D G D A D G

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From
3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an
4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im -

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)
D A D G D A

love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis
Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed;" and
in - ward light the Lord con - veys and
pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)
Bm E7 A D G D Em

sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad
lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to
urg - es them, with ten - der might, to
not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the

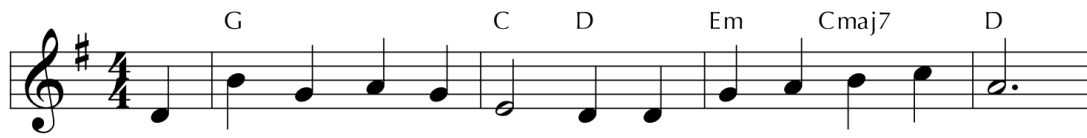
(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)
A D A D G A D

ti - dings of our God to bring.
read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
seek the giv - er of the light.
guid - ance of your light to use.

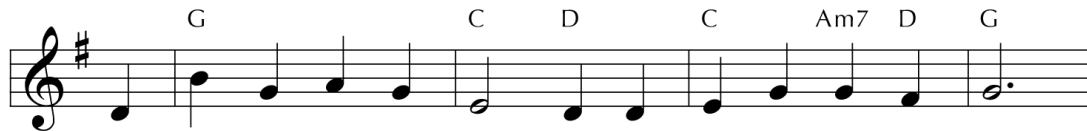
This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

109 Blest Be the God of Israel

Song of Zechariah



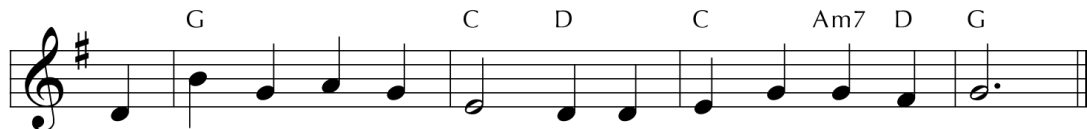
1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
 2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
 3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

This 20th-century British paraphrase of the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68–79) broadens the implications of what John the Baptist's father says in order to affirm that God's work is ongoing. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."