

# Christmas Cantata

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025**

MAXWELL STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
180 E. Maxwell St. Lexington, KY  
[www.maxpres.org](http://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**

### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** - Nan, Gus, and Susan Gill

Children of God, what are we waiting for?

**We wait for peace where conflict rages,  
for gentleness where harshness prevails.**

We wait for swords to be reshaped into plows,  
for walls to crumble and bridges to rise.

**We wait, longing for the Prince of Peace,  
who stills our storms and guides our feet.**

### **HYMN 82** - *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* part of vs. 1

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.**

### **PRELUDE** - *Lo! How a Rose E're Blooming*, John Randall Dennis

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based on Isaiah 11:1-10)

A shoot shall come forth from Jesse's stump,

**And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.**

He will judge the poor with righteousness, and the meek with equity;

**He will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.**

The wolf and the lamb will live peacefully together,

**The leopard and the kid will lie down side by side.**

The cow and the bear will graze together; the lion will eat straw like the ox,

**And a little child will lead them all.**

They will neither hurt nor destroy on God's holy mountain,

**For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.**

### **+ HYMN 93** - *Lift Up Your Heads*

### **+ CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **+ A PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into to bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

- ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING** - Galatians 4:4-7, NT pg. 190

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

**ANTHEM** - *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, arr. Dennis

Of the Father's love begotten, E're the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He. Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore! O ye heights of heav'n adore Him; angel hosts His praises sing; pow'rs dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore! Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

**ANTHEM** - *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*, arr. Dennis

Good Christian men rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before Him bow, and he is in the manger now: Christ is born today! Good Christian men rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore: Christ was born for this! Good Christian men rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall: Christ was born to save!

**SCRIPTURE READING** - Luke 2:8-16, NT pg. 58

**ANTHEM** - *Glory to God*, G. F. Handel

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth. Good will towards men.

**SCRIPTURE READING** - Micah 5:2-5a, OT pg. 865

**A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL** (See Insert)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

### OFFERING

- INVITATION

- OFFERTORY - *Thou Who Wast Rich*, Chancel Choir, Will Jones, solo

Thou who was rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor; thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire paved courts for stable floor. Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest Man; stooping so low, but sinners raising Heav'nwards by thine eternal plan. Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King we worship thee. Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.

- 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 102** - *Savior of the Nations Come*

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** - Hymn 82, *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**POSTLUDE** - *Celebration*, John Randall Dennis, brass quintet, organ, and timpani

## 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](http://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.

### Pre-K Sunday School Class (for ages 3,4 and 5)

This class is specifically designed (using the Grow, Proclaim, Serve! curriculum) for younger children, keeping them engaged in fun bible-centered lessons. Please join us after the Children's Moment during worship.

### Grades K-5 Sunday School

We also offer a class for older students that are in Grades K-5. Children gather in large groups for the Bible story, music, and movement, then break into age-level small groups to dig deeper and apply the story to their daily lives. Please join us after the Children's Moment during worship.

## WAYS TO LEARN MORE

Please visit [www.maxpres.org](http://www.maxpres.org) for details about our ministries for all ages and interests. We also have an active Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/maxpres](https://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](http://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

Greg Harper, Dan Goulson, Hugh Huffman, John Cantrell, Carolyn Hale, Martin Hendrix's mother, Margaret; Elizabeth Leatherman's father, Cindy and Allen Gayheart, Kari Boldt's father, Phillip Greasley

We extend our condolences to Jim Lumppp and his family on the death of his father.

We extend our condolences to Josh England and his family on the death of his Aunt.

Punch is served in the West Parlor by Zane Kerksmar. All are invited.

## PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev Matt Falco, Justice Zurakowski, Megan Cooper, Nan, Gus, and Susan Gill, Ted Gentry, and Chancel Choir

### MUSICIANS:

Dr. David Cooper, organ  
Abby Temple and Julia Stowell, trumpet; Neill Roshto, horn; Kai Miller, trombone; Ian Graves, tuba; Isaac Pyatt, timpani

Handbell Ringers: Mary Jo Dendy, Sandy Gaunce, Megan Hensley, Janet Lumppp, Debi MacQuown, and Robin Morrill.

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

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

## Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, December 7, 2025

First reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm: 72:1-7, 18-19

Second reading: Romans 15:4-13

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Monday, December 8

7:00pm – Session Meeting

### Tuesday, December 9

12:30pm – Centering Prayer

### Wednesday, December 10

10:30am – Kerygma

6:30pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm – UKIRK Campus Group

### Thursday, December 11

All Day – Presbytery Meeting at First Pres

5:30pm – Neighborhood Meal

### Saturday, December 13

12:00pm – Stitchmates (1904 Alexandria Dr)

3:15pm – Set Up for E7 Christmas Sale

### Sunday, December 14

9:30am – Adult Sunday School

10:30am – Children's Christmas Pageant during Worship

11:30am – Youth Group

11:30am – GeNext

1:00pm – E7 Christmas Sale

1:30pm – Youth Westminster Village Food Delivery

3:00pm – LFMC String Festival

### WORDS & WINE

#### Friday, December 5 at 6:30pm

We will meet Friday, December 5 at 6:00pm at the Café at Joseph Beth Bookstore. Wrap a new or used book for a dirty Santa exchange. On January 2, the book is Playground by Richard Powers. Questions, contact Lauren Falco (laurenefalco@yahoo.com).

### POINSETTIA AND CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Forms available in the lobby and narthex

Poinsettias will be added to the decorations during the Advent season. If you would like to give a poinsettia or donate toward decorations in honor or in memory of someone special, please complete the form and return it with your check to the office by today.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

#### Sunday, December 21 at 5pm

We'll share a meal and hot cocoa, then travel in small groups to sing carols to members of our church family who are unable to worship with us. To suggest someone we should visit, please reach out to Kate in the church office.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

#### Wednesday, December 24

We gather on Christmas Eve at 7:30pm and 11:00pm to celebrate the good news that "The Word became flesh and lived among us, ... full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) More than just a birthday party, we celebrate that God enters into this world to dwell with us, to seek the lost and to save the poor, the oppressed, all of us, from the powers of evil. The Christ child is born for the saving of the world. Joy to the world!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

#### Next Sunday, December 14 during Worship

Christmas Around the World - Together we'll travel through different cultures and traditions to see how Christians everywhere celebrate the birth of Jesus. Expect music, costumes, joy, and a beautiful reminder that the story of Christ is for every nation and every people. All are welcome for this special service.

## YOUTH

Dec. 7 - Youth Group After Service

Dec. 14 - Christmas Party & Westminster Village

Dec. 21 - No Youth Group - Christmas Caroling at 5pm

Dec. 28 - No Youth Group

Jan. 31 - Ski Trip

### CONFIRMATION BEGINS JANUARY 18

In the PC(USA), confirmation is a time for young people to study the Christian faith and publicly affirm the vows made at their baptism. Our 8th and 9th graders will begin their Maxwell Street Confirmation Adventure on January 18 at 9:30 in the Johnston Parlor. Please let Matt know if you plan to participate by December 23 (matt@maxpres.org).

## MISSION

### E7 CHRISTMAS SHOP

#### WE REALLY NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!

#### Sunday, December 14

Our kiddos are already buzzing with excitement, and we can't wait to make this year's event extra special. Donations are accepted now through December 14, and we'd love your help. **To donate or volunteer, contact Ashlee Vogelsang at ashlee@maxpres.com.**

Set Up - Saturday, December 13 from 3:15pm-5:15pm

Shop - Sunday, December 14 from 1-3pm

Here's what we need:

- Gifts: Gently used or new toys, and gifts for men, women, and teens
- Volunteers: Help make the magic happen
- Wrapping Materials: Gift wrap, bags, tissue paper, tape, and more

### WARM TREE

During the Season of Advent you'll find a Christmas tree located in the Lobby. It's ready to be filled with hats, gloves, mittens, and socks to keep our community warm and healthy this winter season. New and gently used items are welcome.

### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Learn more about this offering with the qr code.



# Christmas Cantata

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

*The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing.*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King: let ev'ry 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.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love.**

**The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

**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.**

**Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, k tidings bringing: Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the Babe was born for you, Christ the Babe was born for you.**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.**

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing; come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**PLEASE STAND**

**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! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

## Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here, Lord, a - bid. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

## Savior of the Nations, Come 102

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's  
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to  
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows  
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish  
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this  
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.  
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.  
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;

English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.;

English trans. stanzas 2–4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006

MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594

English Trans. St. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

7.7.7.7