



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 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 - *Thanks be to God*, G. F. Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP

Surely God is our salvation;
we will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is our strength and our might;
God has become our salvation.
Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

+ **HYMN 2** - *Come, Thou, Almighty King*

+ CALL TO CONFESSION

+ A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, we confess that we are troubled by the events of our lives and the state of this world. Headlines are full of wars, insurrections, suffering, earthquakes, famines, and death. These things are enough to shake our faith and undermine our confidence in your promise. Deliver us from speculation that distracts us from faithful living and loving service. Forgive us when we doubt your promises. Help us to endure that we may gain our souls, always bearing witness to your love and grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING -2 Thessalonians 3.6-13, NT pg 206 (NRSVUE)

Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

ANTHEM - *Let Thy Merciful Ears, O Lord*, Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623), Chancel Choir

Let Thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open unto the prayers of Thy humble servants; and, that they may obtain their petitions, make them ask such things as shall please Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 21.5-19, NT pg 85

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

SERMON - *This Is Your Chance* - Rev Matt Falco

STATEMENT OF FAITH - A portion of The Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

+ HYMN 361 - *O Christ, the Great Foundation*

(A note from Pastor Matt: I know these aren't the "right" words. If you noticed this, I hope you'll compare these lyrics with those of the more familiar Hymn 321.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

- INVITATION

- OFFERTORY - *Hostias from Requiem*, Gabriel Fauré, Will Jones, bass

Hear our prayer and let our cry come unto thee; God our Father bow thine ear:

We pray thee this day for all the souls departed. O remember them, Lord, we pray.

Grant them deliverance from death unto life. As of old thou hast promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed.

- 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 263 - *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE - Hymn 541 "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" vs. 1 & 3

**1 God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.**

**3 God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE - *Voluntary on Coronation*, Diane Bish

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.

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 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

Greg Harper, Dan Goulson, Hugh Huffman, John Cantrell, Carolyn Hale, Josh England's aunt; Martin Hendrix's mother, Margaret; Elizabeth Leatherman's father

Tom Dixon passed away at home on Thursday. Please pray for his wife Ruth and family as they mourn the loss of Tom.

Ann Farrer's mom, Peg Vogel, died surrounded by family on Thursday. Please pray for their family.

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Karen Williams in memory of her parents.

Punch is served in the West Parlor by the Hart family. All are invited.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev Matt Falco, Janet Kalika, Ted Gentry, Chancel Choir

USHERS: Derrick Meads, Jeff Ehlert, Ann Farrer, and Heidi Robbins Hall

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

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, November 16, 2025

Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, November 17

7:00pm - Deacons

Tuesday, November 18

12:30pm - Centering Prayer

Wednesday, November 19

10:30am - Kerygma

6:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm - Social Justice Committee

7:00pm - UKIRK Campus Group

Thursday, November 20

5:30pm - Neighborhood Meal

Saturday, November 22

12:00pm - Stitchmates

Sunday, November 23

9:30am - Adult Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

10:45am - Children's Sunday School

11:30am - Annual Meeting & Thanksgiving Lunch

1:00pm - Hanging of the Greens

KERYGMA CLASS

Wednesdays 10:30am in Church Library (or on Zoom)

New Class starting November 19!

Join us for a conversation about Matthew Skinner's book, "Voices of Advent." Read one chapter a week, and we'll watch a video by the author in class together before we discuss his book. Read Chapter One for the 19. Contact Matt with questions. matt@maxpres.org

THANKSGIVING DINNER AND ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, November 23



In the Presbyterian Church (USA), congregations are to hold an annual meeting to elect ruling Elders and Deacons, and to approve proposed changes to the terms of call of the Pastor. The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held following the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 23 in the Fellowship Hall. In addition to the official business, we'll also learn who this year's recipients of Endowment Grants are. We will have plenty of food; however, if you wish to bring a side dish to share, you are welcome to do so. **Please RSVP with the QR code above.**

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, November 23 after meeting

We encourage anyone who wants to help to stay after worship to participate in this tradition of decorating the church as we begin the Advent season soon.

N.A.D.Y.A. BOOK GROUP

Sunday, November 23 at 6pm

NADYA Book Group's next book is Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Join us on Sunday, November 23 from 6:00-7:30pm at Jason and Andrea's house to discuss this interesting read. Questions, contact jasonmckinleywilliams@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 7

The Chancel Choir will present a cantata of carols and readings by John Randall Dennis on Sunday morning, December 7, during our worship service. The cantata ends with the congregation participating in the singing familiar Christmas songs. We will be joined by a brass quintet from the University of Kentucky.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 21 at 5pm

Let's carry Christmas joy throughout our community! 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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, November 30 after Worship

The Advent Workshop is a family friendly afternoon full of crafts and fun. All are welcome! Please let us know that you will be joining us by emailing Michelle - michelle.jones@maxpres.org with the number of adults and children who will be attending.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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.

MISSION

E7 CHRISTMAS SHOP

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

E7 BLUEGRASS GIVES DAY

Coming Up - December 2, 2025

Bluegrass Gives is here, and E7 is thrilled to see the results this year. Last year we reached 92% of our goal, this year we aim to exceed it! The Giving Day is December 2, one powerful day with hourly matches! With your support, the possibilities for Lexington's kids are endless. Donate December 2 and double your impact!

GIVING THANKS BY GIVING BACK: A THANKSGIVING OFFERING TO FEED THE HUNGRY

Sunday, November 23 during the Annual Meeting

Many in Lexington are facing food insecurity, and while Maxwell Street already serves through the Hope Mobile, E7 Kids Café, Big Blue Pantry, Maxwell Elementary backpack food bags, and Thursday Night Meals, we want to do even more. At our Thanksgiving Lunch and Annual Meeting on November 23, envelopes will be available on each table for your tax-deductible donations to God's Pantry and FoodChain, two local organizations providing free food to those in need.

2 Come, Thou Almighty King

1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful,
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing; help us to praise:
 might - y Lord, our prayer at - tend.
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour.
 prais - es be, hence ev - er - more!

Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 Thy sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come, and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

The author of this Trinitarian text is unknown, but this hymn has proved popular since the middle of the 18th century, partly because of its effective use of biblical metaphors, but also because of the strength of this tune, which was composed especially for these words.

O Christ, the Great Foundation 361

1 O Christ, the great foun-da - tion on which your peo - ple stand
 2 Bap - tized in one con - fes - sion, one church in all the earth,
 3 Where ty - rants' hold is tight - ened, where strong de - vour the weak,
 4 This is the mo - ment glo - rious when he who once was dead

to preach your true sal - va - tion in ev - ery age and land:
 we bear our Lord's im - pres - sion, the sign of sec - ond birth:
 where in - no - cents are fright - ened, the righ - teous fear to speak,
 shall lead his church vic - to - rious, their cham - pion and their head.

pour out your Ho - ly Spir - it to make us strong and pure,
 one ho - ly peo - ple gath - ered in love be - yond our own,
 there let your church a - wak - ing at - tack the powers of sin
 The Lord of all cre - a - tion his heaven - ly king - dom brings:

to keep the faith un - bro - ken as long as worlds en - dure.
 by grace we were in - vit - ed; by grace we make you known.
 and, all their ram - parts break - ing, with you the vic - tory win.
 the fi - nal con - sum - ma - tion, the glo - ry of all things.

The text was written by a leading Chinese educator, author, and editor who chaired the commission that prepared an important ecumenical Chinese hymnal, *Hymns of Universal Praise* (1936). This familiar tune invites comparison of these words with its usual text (see no. 321).

263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Descant

4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran-somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery kin-dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res-trial ball
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

This 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.