



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 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 - *All Creatures of Our God and King*, Cynthia Dobrinski, Westminster Bells

CALL TO WORSHIP - (Colossians 1.11-20)

Let us give thanks to God, who has enabled us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son,

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation,

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Let us worship God together!

+ **HYMN 268** - *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

+ CALL TO CONFESSION

+ A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world, and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at last we see the fulfillment of your realm of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 1.68-79, NT pg 58 (NRSVUE)

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

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

ANTHEM - *He Never Failed Me Yet*, Robert Ray, Chancel Choir, Jayden Bowman, solo
I will sing of God's mercy, every day, every hour, He gives me power. I will sing and give thanks to Thee for all the dangers, toils and snares that He has brought me out. He is my God and I'll serve Him. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet.

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 23.33-43, NT pg 89 (NRSVUE)

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

SERMON - *The Reign of Christ* - Rev Matt Falco

STATEMENT OF FAITH - Inclusive Version of the Confession of 1967 9.54b-56

...Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. "Now to him who by the power within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

+ **HYMN 645** - *Sing Praise to God*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

- INVITATION
- OFFERTORY - *A Psalm of Thanksgiving* Franklin Ritter
- 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

HUNGER OFFERING

On the fourth Sunday of the month, we collect a special Hunger Offering to support the Hunger Ministries of Maxwell Street. We offer a community meal every Thursday night, support area programs such as a backpack program for Maxwell Street Elementary and the Big Blue Pantry on the UK Campus. You can support these programs on our online giving webpage, MSPC app, or by check with Hunger Ministries in the memo line.

+ **HYMN 363** - *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!*

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE - Hymn 647, *Give Thanks*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. (2x)**

**And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" (2x)**

Give thanks. Give thanks.

POSTLUDE - *Carillon*, Herbert Murrill

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, Cindy and Allen Gayheart

This Thanksgiving weekend, Mason Hawkins would have turned 21. To honor his life, family and friends are hosting a virtual 5k you can complete anytime, anywhere that weekend. The \$21 registration fee supports the WKU scholarship fund established in Mason's memory. Scan the QR code to register.



The flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of all church volunteers. We are thankful for you.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev Matt Falco, Nicole Currier, Rob Wethington, Ted Gentry, Chancel Choir, Westminster Bells

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 23, 2025

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79
Colossians 1:11-20

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46
Luke 23:33-43

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, November 23 (Today)

11:30am - Annual Meeting and Lunch after worship
11:30am - Children's Choir (shortened rehearsal)
12:30pm - Hanging of the Greens

Tuesday, November 25

12:30pm - Centering Prayer

Wednesday, November 26

10:30am - Kerygma
6:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, November 29

1:00pm - Kaye Morgan Visitation and Service (2:00pm)

Sunday, November 30

9:30am - Adult Sunday School
9:30am - UKIRK Leadership Meeting
10:30am - Worship
10:45am - Children's Sunday School
11:30am - Youth Group
11:30am - Children's Choir (shortened rehearsal)
11:30am - Advent Workshop

SERVICE FOR KAYE MORGAN

A visitation for Kaye Morgan will be held at Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church on Saturday, November 29 at 1:00 p.m., followed by a service at 2:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided afterward in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

TODAY - 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

TONIGHT - 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

Next 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

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.

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!

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.

Crown Him with Many Crowns 268

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab-sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub-lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pier - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down-ward bends his burn-ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

mur - mur stilled:
 all is right:
 cho - sen band: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 take your part:

Rejoice, the Lord Is King! 363

Descant

4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re-joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a-dore!
 2 Our Sav-ior, Je-sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 His king-dom can-not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri-umph ev-er-more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a-bove.
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je-sus given.
 and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!

Each stanza of this enthronement text prepares for the final line of the refrain, based on Philippians 4:4.
 "Lord" is here a title of Christ rather than a reference to the undivided Trinity. The late 18th-century tune
 (first used with Psalm 148) captures the mood well.