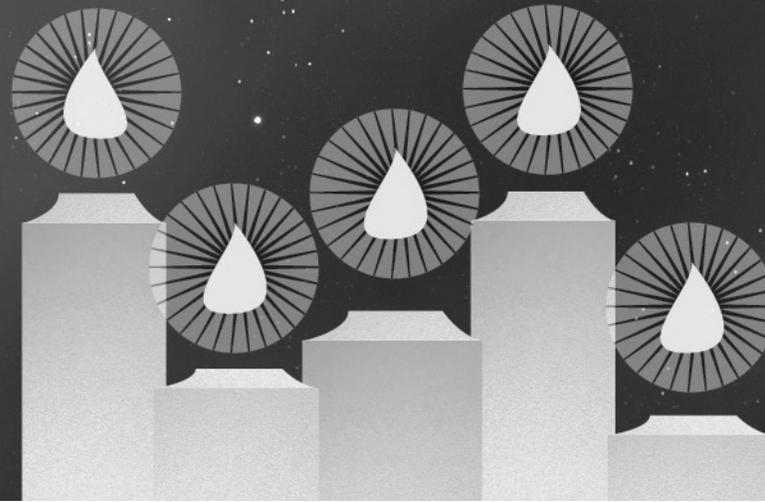




Advent

ANTICIPATION



WELCOME

- Announcements
- Passing of the Peace
- Scripture - "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us."
- Prelude ~ God Rest Ye Merry — Kevin McChesney
Canterbury Bells

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

This year's Advent's Wreath Lighting is based on portions of the Confession of 1967, adopted 50 years ago by the PC(USA). The turbulent decade of the 1960s challenged churches everywhere to restate their faith. While the Second Vatican Council was reformulating Roman Catholic thought and practice, Presbyterians were developing the Confession of 1967. The confession is said to be based on one scripture: "In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself. . ." (2 Cor. 5:19, NRSV). It calls the church to obedient action, particularly in response to social problems such as racial discrimination, nationalistic arrogance, and family and class conflict. It sees the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ as the pattern for the church's mission today, and calls on all Christians to be reconciled to God and to one another.

+ WEEK 1 - ANTICIPATION - 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 people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes...

- Sung Response: Hymn 105 - *People Look East* - Verse 1
- People, look east. The time is near of the crowing of the year. Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
Jesus says, I am coming soon.
Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

+HYMN 106 ~ *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

+CONFESSION

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. We study the trends of our times and ignore the signs of your reign. We trust in things that pass away and forget your eternal promise. Forgive us, God of grace. Strengthen us, by your hand, so that we may be ready for that day when you come to reign in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear now our silent prayers to you...

- Silent Prayer
- Kyrie Eleison
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.
- Assurance of Forgiveness
- Response of Thanksgiving ~ Hymn 110
Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS TO GOD'S WORD

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away. May our generation be attentive so that we may remember your ways, and by gladly doing right, meet you wherever and whenever you appear. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 25.6-10

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

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

STEWARDSHIP

- Call to Stewardship

Stewardship is a time to consider all our gifts. Think of how Jesus teaches us to spend the time, talents, and money with which we've been blessed. Think of how we each can use them to bring God's love to our neighborhood and to our world. Though many of us contribute electronically or by a check in the mail, your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication.

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a Way as gives us breath:
such a Truth as ends all strife:
such a Life as killeth death!

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a Light as shows a feast,
such a Feast as mends in length,
such a Strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my heart:
such a Joy as none can move:
such a Love as none can part:
such a Heart as joys in love.

ANTHEM ~ *The Call* arr. Erik Routley

SERMON ~ *ANTICIPATION* - by Rev. Matt Falco

+HYMN 108 ~ *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (verses 1, 2, 3 and 6)

COMMUNION

- Invitation to the Table

- Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy...

...The Lord's Prayer

- Words of Institution

- Communion of the People

You are invited to come forward. Take a piece of bread from the loaf and dip it in the cup and consume both together. If you would prefer to remain seated, the bread and cup will be offered to you there.

- Prayer after Communion

God, our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this taste

Of justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation.

Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm.

Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory

of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+HYMN 82 ~ *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

+BENEDICTION

+BENEDICTION RESPONSE ~ Hymn 91 *Come, Come Emmanuel*
Come, come Emmanuel, come Emmanuel (2x)

+ POSTLUDE ~ *Fanfare* — Nicolas Jacques Lemmens

Welcome to Worship

Welcome to Maxwell Street, a church known for its diversity, inclusion and mission. This is Christ's Church. It's not open to a few, but the invitation is wide-open. Bring your burdens as well as your hopes. Bring your disappointments as well as your joys. There is a kind of space here into which all are invited to be themselves and to feel at home. Participate to the degree you feel comfortable. Here is some information to help make you feel at home.

- LARGE PRINT BIBLES are available from the ushers.
- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from the ushers.
- Hearing help is available with a personal amplification device from the ushers.
- An elevator is located in the Education Building for your convenience.
- **Visitors interested in learning more** are invited to meet with a pastor or member of the Welcome Team in the Johnston Parlor after the service. We are glad you are here today.
- **Children are welcome in worship.** All children are encouraged to be in worship with their families so they may share in hymns, scripture, prayers, and other parts of worship. There is a booklet available in the narthex, in classrooms, and the lobby with details about our Children's classes and upcoming events. Below is a list of classes for children.

Infant to pre-K 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.

Three & Four Year Olds —Godly Play, following Children's Moment. The classroom is in the Young Children's Area in the basement. Teachers will greet you.

Deep Blue Class (see individual classes below) These classes are designed to give our kids an overview of the Bible in an engaging way. The classrooms are on the 2nd floor at the end of the hallway. Teachers will welcome them.

K-1st Grade — across from the choir room (2nd floor)

2nd - 3rd Grade — last room down the hall (2nd floor)

4th - 5th Grade— Youth room (2nd floor)

- Baby changing tables and accessible restrooms are available in the basement.
- Follow us on Twitter @maxpreschurch or tag #maxpres if you want to share a thought from today's service.

WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leaders

Matt Falco, Katherine Norwood, Kaitlin DeSpain, Ted Gentry, Canterbury Bells, and Chancel Choir.

Reader

Harris Hawkins

Acolyte

Lucas Falco

Ushers

The ushers are Tim Costich, Tom Dixon, Ralph & Cindy Bollinger, Greg Harper, Sandy & Joe Kyle, and Lynda Umfress.

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Elise, Janet & Kevin Kalika in celebration of Doug's birthday.

Punch is served in the West Parlor by Rowena & Harry Johnson. All are invited.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Tom White, Matt McMahan, Tammy Lane
Tom Dixon's son-in-law

Family of Ronnie Peacock, Uncle of Bill Anderson-Cooper

SERVICE WOMEN AND MEN

Jake Abernathie (is stationed at Newport News, VA) grandson of Dorothy & Loren Tice.

Trevor Anderson-Cooper (AOAN Weapons Department G-3, USS George HW Bush CVN77 FPO AE 09513-2803) son of Debra Anderson & Bill Cooper. Donald Harper (Yerivan, Armenia) son of Greg & Jean Harper.

Tyler Buckley, son of Leigh Buckley.

Nathan Stepp (Norfolk) grandson of Mary Anna & Fayette Stepp.

for all the families and loved ones of our service women and men; for all peace-keepers and peacemakers in families, communities and the world.

MAXWELL STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DIVERSITY • INCLUSION • MISSION

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Pastor Matt Falco

Choir Director Kaitlin DeSpain

Organist & Bell Director Ted Gentry

Mission Outreach Coordinator Shelli Gregory

Interim Director of Children's Ministry Michelle Jones

Pastor Emeritus Woody Berry

Director of Youth Ministry Katherine Norwood

Youth Interns David Ehlert, Lauren Gilbert and Claire Roberts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS are for sale today. Help support Fair Trade farmers from all over the world by purchasing coffee, tea, and chocolate. These products also make thoughtful gifts for Christmas. Stop by and see us after worship!

GRACE NOTES rehearse in the Choir Room after worship.

ADVENT WORKSHOP is in Fellowship Hall following the service. Join the Children's Committee for a family-friendly lunch and lots of holiday crafts to prepare for the Advent season.

N.A.D.Y.A. YOUNG ADULT BOOK GROUP meets at Jason & Andrea's house this evening at 6pm. We're reading *The Mudhouse Sabbath*, chapters "hospitality," "prayer," "body," and "fasting." Join us for snacks, drinks and lively discussion.

YOUTH GROUP is helping with the Advent Workshop. Meet in Fellowship Hall after worship. Questions, contact Katherine (katherine@maxpres.org).

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

10:30am Pastor's Coffee at Coffea
7:00pm Theology on Tap meets at Ethereal Brewing.

TUESDAY

8:30am Sweet Blessings
9:00am Staff Meeting
7:00pm Centering Prayer
8:00pm UKirk (Blevins House)

WEDNESDAY

10:30am Morning Kerygma
5:45pm Fellowship Dinner
5:45pm Cherub Choir
6:30pm Evening Kerygma
6:30pm Chancel Choir
7:30pm Westminster Bells

THURSDAY

9:10am Canterbury Bells
6:00pm Thursday Night Meal

FRIDAY

6:00pm E7 Christmas Shoppe Setup (until 8pm)
7:00pm Guitar Series Concert

SATURDAY

9:00am Mahan Woodshop
1:00pm E7 Christmas Shoppe Sale (until 3pm)

E7 CHRISTMAS SHOPPE is coming up soon. Set up is Friday, Dec 8 6-8pm and the sale is Saturday, Dec 9 1-3. To make this happen, we need volunteers to help set up, gifts - new or gently used gifts suitable for women, men, and children of all ages, gift bags and pre-wrapped boxes (lids and boxes), wrapping paper, tags, tape, ribbon, scissors, tissue paper and boxes will all be needed.

PECAN ORDERS - If you placed an order, see a PW representative in the Punch Parlor. Additional pecans are for sale for \$13 a bag. They make great gifts

UK GUITAR SERIES CONCERT - All are invited to the UK Guitar Studio Fall Showcase on Friday, December 8 at 7:30 in the sanctuary. UK students will be performing. (Free admission)

WARM TREE IS UP! Please decorate the tree with gloves, hats, and scarves for those in need.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

During the season of Advent, Matt will be teaching a class based on Adam Hamilton's book, *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehems* in the Library from 9:30-10:15. Participants are encouraged to read Hamilton's book, but not required. The class starts today and will run through December 24th.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS GATHERING

December 7 at 10:30am in Fellowship Hall. Sara Benedetti, will lead the lesson. If you signed up to bring a Christmas gift for the family in Westminster Village please bring the wrapped gift with you. Following our Christmas lunch (\$6), we will be entertained by middle school students from the School of Creative and Performing Arts. All are invited to the lunch and program following at 11:45.

CAROLING - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 5:00 PM Join us in bringing some holiday cheer to folks in our congregation who can't make it to Christmas services! No singing experience or practice required - just meet us at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, and we'll give you everything you need! After making your caroling rounds, we'll return to the Fellowship Hall for hot chocolate and chili.

PARKING VOLUNTEERS - Youth are seeking volunteers from the church to collect parking money from fans who park in the MSPC lot for women's basketball games. The money collected goes toward youth mission trips. We still need volunteers for Sunday January 7, Monday January 15, and Thursday February 1. Contact Katherine at katherine@maxpres.org if you can volunteer for one of these dates!

THE CHURCH BREAKFAST in December will have as our speaker Maxwell Street member Josh Pierce. He is currently serving as Vice President for Goodwill Industries of Kentucky. Please try to attend to hear from Josh! It will be held in the Scout Room on December 20th and will, as usual, have doughnuts and delicious coffee for only a dollar. Come before 8:30 a.m. to mix with those others attending.

DECEMBER 24 -- CHRISTMAS EVE

On Christmas Eve there will be a family friendly morning service featuring music by both Grace Notes and Cherub Choir, along with a festive theme celebrating cultures from around the world. The Christmas Eve evening services promise to include the singing of your favorite advent carols and hymns, so don't miss out on these wonderful opportunities to celebrate. Please note that children are encouraged to join us for these worship services and there will be no childcare provided.

- 10:30 Family Service
- 7:30 Traditional Christmas Eve Service
- 11:00 Christmas Eve Communion Service

THE FRIENDSHIP BOOK can be found at the end of each pew. Please take the time to fill in your name, address, and phone. On the space at the end of the line, please be sure to sign up for any of the following, using more than one line if needed.

- A. Theology on Tap
- B. E7 Christmas Shoppe Volunteer
- C. PW Christmas Gathering
- D. Christmas Caroling
- E. Church Breakfast

MISSION

We have a goal to meet! 100 pair of socks for those we serve in the Sandwich Ministry! Socks need to be collected before their distribution on Sunday Dec. 24.

SOCIAL JUSTICE Blue Monarch (in Hillsboro, TN) helps mothers who are recovering from drug addiction learn how to manage the stress of parenting without using drugs. The Thank Offering from Presbyterian Women (taken at their meeting on Dec. 7) will help provide effective parenting tools to mothers who have likely never observed healthy parenting in the home. The ultimate goal is to build a stronger bond and better relationship between mother and child and decrease the likelihood of abuse or neglect.