



SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2021

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



SIGN IN OR GIVE ONLINE

You can scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone or device to go directly to our sign in page and online giving portal.

We are so glad you are with us today. Sign in and let us know you are joining us, just like we previously did with the pew cards and pens. We also offer, easy, secure online giving. Your generosity is what makes our ministry and programming possible at MSPC. Thank you!

If you are sick or have been in the last 24 hours, please DO NOT ATTEND WORSHIP IN PERSON.

To prevent the spread of the virus:

- **Get Vaccinated.**
- **Wear a mask. Masks are required at Maxwell Street.**
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick.

WELCOME

- GREETING
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- OFFERING

PRELUDE - *La Grâce*, Georg Phippp Telemann

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us gather for worship,
for this day is holy to the Lord.
The joy of the Lord is our strength and salvation,
and we gather to offer our praise.
In singing and in silence,
in Word and in prayer,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Let us come and worship God.

+ HYMN 409 - *God Is Here!* verses 1, 2, and 3

+ CALL TO CONFESSION

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we have wandered from your light. We follow paths of self-indulgence, instead of focusing on our need of you. We passively accept the suffering of the world, expecting others to stand up and work for the change we would like to see. Lord, in your strength, renew us and compel us by your invitation that we may work to pursue your justice and mercy for all people, sharing your light in ways great and small. Hear now our silent prayers...

- ASSURANCE OF PARDON
- GLORIA PATRI - Hymn 581 ~ *Glory Be to the Father*
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

Just as we see your wisdom and glory in nature around us, God, may we hear your Word for us in the words of these readings, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may be drawn closer to you. Through your great preacher, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM - *O Jesus, I Have Promised*, David Ashley White

Jonathan Adkins, Olivia Jett, Casey Mayo, Mason O'Brien, Parker Van Houten

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. 2 Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. 3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 6 Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

SERMON - *Before the Water Gate (not that Watergate)* - by Rev. Matt Falco

ORDINATION AND/OR INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS: Valerie Perry, Julia Centella, Carolyn Hale, Doug Kalika, Tracy Bruno

DEACONS: Pam Moon, Elaine Marshall, Jody Lambert, Ben Lumppp, Evie Smith

HYMN 772 - *Live into Hope* verses 1, 3, and 4

+ BLESSING AND CHARGE

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Hymn 542 – *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* vs. 1 and 2

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.

2 God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE - *Jesus Is King*, Dick Torrans

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Like any gathering place, a church has a personality. Our historic building and beautiful sanctuary embody the spirit of tradition, yet our Sunday morning services are frequently punctuated by laughter. Diversity, inclusion, and mission are the heartbeat of our church family. We reach out and embrace everyone regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or sexual orientation. MSPC also witnesses to God's love as we stand with the marginalized and advocate for social justice.

At MSPC, you're sure to find someone like you: college students, singles, boomers, retirees, and children and families of all descriptions. You can also find space here to recharge, linger in the depth of message and music, and connect with others who readily accept you and rejoice in varied opportunities to be the church together. 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.
- An elevator is located in the Education Building for your convenience.
- 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.

+ Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand in body and/or in spirit.

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 life of the church, you may do so at: www.maxpres.org. If you have questions, a pastor will be happy to talk with you at your convenience; simply call the church office at (859) 255-1074, 9am-4:30pm Monday-Thursday, 9am -1:30pm Friday

JOYS & CONCERNS

Doug Stretch, Anna Wethington, Janet Lumppp, Marcia and Phil Greasley, Ron and Georgia Bacquet's daughter and son-in-law, Alan Wood 's grandmother, Michelle & Dennie's son in law, Leo.

Valerie Perry and family in the death of her father-a memorial was held yesterday.

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God by David Smith in memory of Susan on the fourth anniversary of her death.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Matt Falco, Ted Gentry

VOCAL ENSEMBLE:

Jonathan Adkins, Olivia Jett, Casey Mayo, Mason O'Brien, and Parker Van Houten

USHERS: Tracy Bruno, Brad, Hyde, and Mason Hawkins

ACOLYTE: Garrett Meads

VIDEO AND SOUND CREW:

Rich Copley, Jim Lumppp, Kevin Moore, Bill Smith, Will Burchfield, Jay Vessels.

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Marianne Russell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE NATIONAL RESPONSE

As night fell on December 10, a horrific line of powerful tornadoes ripped across several states, ending the lives of more than 100 people and wreaking devastation across many communities by the time morning had broken. One of these tornadoes was on the ground for a terrifying and unprecedented 250 miles, more than 200 of those miles in Kentucky alone, where the town of Mayfield saw the catastrophic destruction of much of the downtown area, including the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist churches. In the wake of these terrible and catastrophic storms, it is the role of ordinary people of faith like us to shine as light in this bleakest of winters. We are called to be the hands and feet of God as we reach out to shelter, feed, care for and help rebuild the lives of those who have lost loved ones, homes, work and a sense of safety as a result of the tornadoes. We are invited to stand with them — and to stand together — bearing witness by our gifts and prayers that God is indeed incarnate among us, no matter what.

GIVE: Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/DT21, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check using the below reply device. You can also text PDA to 41444 to donate.

MATT'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT Sundays 9:15-9:45 Online and In-Person

We'll start off this semester's Old Testament class with one of the "baddest" women of the Bible: Jezebel. Jezebel is the wife of King Ahab. Her story is found in 1 Kings 16-21 and 2 Kings 9. When you hear the name Jezebel, what images comes to mind? A conniving, powerful woman? A seductive woman wearing a lot of makeup? The Jezebel we find in the Old Testament is more complex than the stereotypes would suggest. Join us online this week at 9:15 for a conversation about this woman of the Old Testament. Contact matt@maxpres.org for Zoom details.

MISSION HEALTH LEXINGTON SAVE THE DATE ** PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE TO APRIL 1

Mission Health Lexington's Annual Gala is returning! We've made the decision to move the Gala to April 1. We are hoping things feel safer by then. The event will still be at The Campbell House. The Gala is the perfect way to break up the winter blues while raising funds to help our neighbors in need. The event features live music, a multi-course seated dinner, drinks, fellowship, and an exciting live and silent auction. Let's fill a table of 10 to represent Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church! We are also seeking items for the auction. If you're interested in making a donation please contact Tish (platttish@gmail.com) or Abby Pliszka (abby@missionlexington.org). If you would like more information or to receive an invitation by mail please contact Abby at the email above. We hope to see you in April!

HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE SOCIAL WORK OFFICE:

- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent small
- Household cleaners small
- Dishwashing liquids

LIONS CLUB COLLECTION OF EYEGLASSES

PLEASE SCAVENGER HUNT FOR OLD EYEGLASSES
During the month of January, the Mission Committee is asking that you collect all of your old eyeglasses around the house and donate them to the Lions Club. One of the missions of the Lions Club is to rework our donated old frames and insert new and corrective lens into the frames for children and adults who live in economically disadvantaged countries.

You might recognize the collection can outside of Tina's office in the education building lobby. The tall can has a goofy face, large ears, and eyeglasses. You can flip the top off of the can and insert your many pairs of old eyeglasses that will be getting a brand new life while helping others to see.

Suggestions for BUILDING OUR COLLECTION:

- Ask friends and family for their old eyeglass frames.
- Ask your co-workers for their old and used frames.
- Hunt through your drawers at home to find those old forgotten pairs that have been tucked away and forgotten.
- Create your OWN collection box at work or school and bring your collections into church.
- Adult and children's used eyeglasses will be gladly accepted.

YOUTH

SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP

July 17-22

A spirit-filled weeklong transformative learning experience. We won't simply ladle soup or sit with elders, we will emerge from our experience with a dynamic understanding of how individuals experience issues like homelessness and food insecurity— what it looks and feels like and what it means for the families experiencing it — as well as what solutions actually work to reduce the harm caused by living with these conditions. We will engage in daily reflection and discussion of the moral, ethical, and spiritual questions surrounding some of the nation's most complex and heart-breaking social problems. Approx. fee \$275. Scholarships and Fundraising Opportunities Available.

SKI TRIP TO PERFECT NORTH!

Saturday, February 5

Meet at the church after eating a good, hearty breakfast at home at 8:30 AM, pick up at 5:30 PM at the church. Please bring about \$15 for lunch, more if planning on purchasing any sort of equipment/souvenirs.

God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an

of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in
 life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,
 Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and
 age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
 font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
 wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

Commissioned for the dedication of a renovated worship space in Austin, Texas, this text is one of the few to devote attention to how customary church features facilitate worship. The tune was composed in wartime Britain to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we

var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing
 si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness
 wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in
 have to give, re - ceive: we, who can - not

of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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Live into Hope

1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.

542 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's

coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -
 per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -

fold you:
 vide you:
 round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 fore you:

After writing the first stanza of his "Christian Good-bye," the author sent it to two composers, one celebrated and one unknown, to see how each would set it. This is the second person's tune, which the author found more effective and used for the hymn's first publication.