



SUNDAY, MARCH 15

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

In celebration of Women's History Month, this week's bulletin art is by artist, Hilma af Klint, a spiritual abstract artist. "The Swan", 1914. 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.

INTROIT 411 - *God Is Here Today (sing twice)*

**God is here today;
as certain as the air I breathe,
as certain as the morning sun that rises,
as certain when I sing you'll hear my song.**

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - *Elegy*, Giovanni Bottesini (1821-1889), Theo Meads, bass

CALL TO WORSHIP

We draw near to a loving God,
who meets us not as we imagine we should be, but rather as we are.
We draw near to God who call us
from shadow into light, and certainty into wonder.
We draw near to God
asking that our eyes may be opened, and our seeing shaped by grace.

+ **HYMN 802** - *The King of Love, My Shepherd Is (Psalm 23)*

+ CONFESSION & PARDON

God, we confess that we often prefer comfort to honesty, and familiar stories rather than grace that challenges us. Forgive us when we fail to see our neighbour, or turn away from truths that unsettle us. Awaken us again to the truth of your love. Forgive us when we make quick judgments rather than listening carefully; when we cling to what feels safe instead of trusting where You are leading; when we overlook those on the edges or stay silent when love calls us to speak. Open our eyes, gracious God. Help us to see one another as You see us — with compassion, dignity, and hope. Renew us by Your mercy, reshape us by Your love, and lead us forward in the light of Christ. Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Samuel 16.1-13 OT pg 259 (NRSVUE)

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

ANTHEM - *For the Beauty of the Earth*, John Rutter, Chancel Choir, Loren Tice, piano

SCRIPTURE READING - Ephesians 5.8-14 NT pg 194

SERMON - "What Is Pleasing to the Lord" - Rev. Matt Falco

+ **STATEMENT OF FAITH** - From *Confession of 1967* - 9.21-22

We believe that the reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become a personal crisis and present hope when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to us, moves us to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. We believe that the new life takes shape in a community in which we know that God loves and accepts us in spite of what we are. We therefore accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

+ **HYMN 720** - *Jesus Calls Us*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

• OFFERTORY - *Antiphon*, Gordon Young (1919-1998)

+ • 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 78** - *Come! Live in the Light!*

+ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+ **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** - Hymn 702, *Christ Be Beside Me*

1 Christ be beside me; Christ be before me;

Christ be behind me, King of my heart.

Christ be within me; Christ be below me;

Christ be above me, never to part.

2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,

Christ all around me, shield in the strife.

Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,

Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

POSTLUDE - *Fugue in C*, Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

*Join us in the Punch Parlor after worship at the rear of sanctuary for conversation and community.
Punch this week is served by Anne-Claire Linscott & Kennedy Feltner-Happy*

JOYS & CONCERNS

John Cantrell, Nancie Field, Kenneth Frost, Joan Colborn, Greg Harper, Kenny Leatherman, Carolyn Hale, Martin Hendrix's mother; Kenny Way, Kaye Morgan's son-in-law

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Matt Falco, Derrick Meads, Rob Wethington, Ted Gentry, Chancel Choir

ACOLYTE: Blake Tremoulis

USHERS: Tracy Bruno, Matt McMahan, Heidi Robbins Hall, Elizabeth Tremoulis

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

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for March 15, 2026

First reading: 1 Samuel 16.1-13

Psalm 23

Second reading: Ephesians 5.8-14

Gospel: John 9.1-41

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. We strive to use inclusive language that reflects the beauty of God's diversity. You are welcome here, and you are loved.

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

BOLD TEXT indicates that you are invited to join the congregation in unison.

• 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.



Download the Maxwell Street App
Scan this code with your smartphone or device

Children's Programming on Sundays

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. Children will head downstairs following 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. Children will head downstairs following 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 15

9:15am - Confirmation
9:30am - Adult Sunday School
9:30am - Third Space Sunday
10:30am - Worship
10:45am - Children's Sunday School
11:45am - Youth Group
11:45am - Children's Choir

Monday, March 16

5:30pm - Worship Committee
7:00pm - Deacons

Tuesday, March 17

10:00am - Presbytery Meeting

Wednesday, March 18

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

Thursday, March 19

5:30pm - Thursday Night Meal

Sunday, March 22

9:15am - Confirmation
9:30am - Adult Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
10:45am - Children's Sunday School
11:45am - Youth Group
11:45am - Children's Choir
6:00pm - NADYA

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

KERYGMA CLASS

Wednesdays, 10:30am in Library

Kerygma is reading and discussing "Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America," an updated book by Ted V. Foote Jr. and P. Alex Thornburg. Previously called "Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt," this update provides a Presbyterian perspective on topics such as same-gender relationships, the role racism has played in the history of the church, and Christian Nationalism. Join us at 10:30 am on Wednesdays in the church library. Contact Matt for info.

N.A.D.Y.A.

Sunday, March 22, 6-7:30pm

N.A.D.Y.A. will meet at Jason & Andrea's home to discuss, "North Woods". Contact Jason (jasonmckinleywilliams@gmail.com) with questions.

MAXWELL IN MOTION

Does your committee or small group have an announcement or piece of news that you would like included in the next Maxwell in Motion? Please send them to Hannah (hannah@maxpres.org) by March 20th to be included in the April MIM.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

GENEXT

Sunday, April 19th after worship

GeNext is a program for 4th & 5th graders to connect with one another. Contact Michelle Jones for more info. (michelle.jones@maxpres.org)

YOUTH

PALM SUNDAY EASTER EGG HUNT

The Youth Group is requesting donations of individually wrapped candy to stuff easter eggs with for our annual easter egg hunt. Please no candy with nuts/tree nuts. Bring to service or leave in the church office at any time.

MISSION

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

In March, the mission committee aims to unite for our community by ensuring the availability of toilet paper and cleaning supplies. It doesn't have to be extravagant; even some items from the dollar store would be helpful, such as all-purpose cleaner, dish soap, and sponges. A clean environment enhances our well-being, and when we feel good, we are more likely to make positive choices.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Throughout the Lenten Season, we are participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This Easter Special Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

FELLOWSHIP

PUNCH & FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED

Sponsors are still needed for sanctuary flower dedication. You can sign up in the Punch Parlor or contact Kate (kate@maxpres.org). Flowers are \$50. We are also in need of Punch Hosts. Please sign up in the Punch Parlor.

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH & EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 29, after worship

Join us for a festive brunch and Easter Egg hunt following Palm Sunday worship service. Brunch will be held in the Fellowship Hall with the egg hunt afterwards on the playground.