



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

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

Today's bulletin art is a painting by Canadian artist, Emily Carr (1871-1945), titled, "Tree in Early Autumn". Carr was raised as a Presbyterian, and her work often reflected her growing concerns about the environmental impact of industry on Canada's beautiful landscapes.

INTROIT 405 - "Praise God for This Holy Ground"

**1 Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound. (Refrain)**

**3 Praise God who through Christ makes known
all are loved and called God's own. (Refrain)**

Refrain:

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.**

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Minute for Mission

PRELUDE - *Préambule*, Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

CALL TO WORSHIP - Adapted from a Call by Cláudio Carvalhaes

Come, All of You

Come, you who are forgotten, for today your Lord has remembered you.

Come, you who labor, you who are breathless, come and be refreshed.

Come and find rest from your labors.

Come, you who are frightened, there is peace enough.

Come, for He has grafted you into the palm of His hands.

Come, you who are oppressed, depressed, homeless, hungry, and you who feel no one understands you.

You who can't voice your sicknesses, for your tears are invisible.

Come to the God who sees you.

Come, for you are loved. Come, for you are valued. Come and be cared for.

Come, let us worship.

+ HYMN 630 - "Fairer Lord Jesus"

+ CONFESSION & PARDON - Prayer by Rev. Robert Lowry

Eternal God, we come before you aware that you know the truth of our hearts before we can utter a word. You know when our good intentions exceed our capacity for gospel living. You know when we embrace the good news of liberation with our lips but don't change our actions. Forgive our shortcomings and the times we have failed to live the words we say. Restore us in the confidence of people who have heard good news and remind us that even when we arrive late, there is still work to be done. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

- ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

- RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS: 581- Gloria Patri

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS

God of life and light, illumine our hearts and spirits and attune us to the reading and hearing of your word. May our hearing be discerning and may this proclamation be faithful and, in all things, may we approach your word with joy and humility. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Philippians 2.1-13 NT pg 197 (NRSVUE)

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us

ALL: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

ANTHEM - *Give Me Jesus*, arr. Fleming, Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 21.23-32 NT pg 23 (NRSVUE)

SERMON - "Going Ahead of You" - Rev. Matt Falco

+ STATEMENT OF FAITH - PC(USA) Confession of 1967- Inclusive Version

9.54 **Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation. 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.**

9.55 **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.**

+ HYMN 692 - "Spirit, Open My Heart"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS & DEBTORS)

OFFERING

- OFFERTORY - *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*, arr. Hustad

+ • 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 265** - "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

+ **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

+ **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** - Hymn 372, "O For A World" (verses 1 and 5)

O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.

O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

POSTLUDE - *Voluntary on Jesus Shall Reign*, arr. Bish (b. 1941)

Please join us in the West Parlor after worship for punch and fellowship.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Leo LoNigro, Greg Harper, Kenny Way, Kaye Morgan's son-in-law, Harry Johnson's brother and sister, Susan Carey's husband, Douglas Ensminger's sister, Peggy.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Matt Falco, Julia Linscott, Dr. Ted Gentry, and the Chancel Choir

USHERS: Jeff Elhert (Head Usher), Debbie Acker, Heidi Robbins Hall, and Matt McMahan

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

Punch is graciously provided by Lauren Falco.

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for September 27, 2026

First Reading and Psalm: Exodus 17.1-7 and Psalm 78.1-4, 12-16

Alternate First Reading and Psalm: Ezekial 18.1-4 and Psalm 25.1-9

Second Reading: Philippians 2.1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21.23-32

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 make an offering online and more. You can scan the QR code to the right to access the app.
- Please be aware that today's service is being live-streamed and recorded. Portions of the service, may be shared online. By attending, you acknowledge that your image and/or voice may appear in these recordings.
- LARGE PRINT BIBLES, BULLETINS, and HYMNS 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 and basement levels. Baby changing stations are in the basement restrooms or nursery.



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

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 27

9:30am - Adult Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

11:30am - Children's Choir

Wednesday, September 30

10:30am - Kerygma

6:30pm - Chancel Choir

7:00pm - UKirk Campus Group

Thursday, October 1

5:30pm - Thursday Night Meal

Sunday, October 4

9:30am - Adult Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

10:45am - Children's Sunday School

11:30am - Youth Group

11:30am - New Member Informational Session

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Kerygma

Wednesdays at 10:30am

This fall, we will learn what led up to the Protestant Reformation, how the church changed during this period, and how God might be calling us to reform today. This class will include Bible study, history, and personal reflection. Join Matt on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Library or on Zoom. (Contact Matt for Zoom Link).

Rev. Douglas's Sunday School Class

Sundays, 9:30am, Field Room

Join us as we discuss: "Lord" God, "Holy" Bible, Why are we here? We will look at some creeds, old and new, but most importantly, we will listen to each other. On the second and fourth weeks, we will focus on issues of faith that you suggest. Each class session will stand on its own.

NEW MEMBER INFO SESSION

Sunday, October 4th, after worship

Join Matt and the MSPC Welcome Committee in the Johnston Parlor at the back of the sanctuary following worship for a 30-minute introduction to Maxwell Street. Learn about the church and membership, and ask any questions you might have. Contact Matt for more information- matt@maxpres.org

240 YEARS OF

TRANSYLVANIA PRESBYTERY

Saturday, October 10th, 3:00pm

You are invited to join in the celebration of 240 years as Transylvania Presbytery, October 10th at the Presbyterian Church of Danville. Worship is at 3:00pm, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall with historical displays.

MISSION

October Random Act of Kindness

Please check out the RMH wishlist to replenish staples in their pantry for our October Random Act of Kindness. Items can be dropped off in the church office (please mark RAK) or ordered on their Amazon Wish List and they will be shipped directly to RMH. You can find their Wishlist at the QRC to the right. The RMHC Pantry is used by parents and families staying at the house. They can grab food or snacks for themselves at any time.



IN ONE A-CHORD MUSIC FESTIVAL

Friday, October 9th, 7:30pm

Maxwell Street is proud to be a part of the In One A-Chord: Lexington Sacred Music Festival again this year. Join us on Friday, October 9th from a sacred and classic musical offering from trumpeter/composer, Jason Dovel, and Dr. Ted Gentry, our organist and Music Director. The concert is free, but please RSVP at the link in the QRC to the right.



ENDOWMENT GRANT REQUESTS

Requests Due October 10th

The Maxwell Street Endowment supports church programs and missions beyond the annual budget. We invite you to recommend worthy programs or projects for funding this year. Priority is given to MSPC-supported programs. If you are interested, please provide a written or email request with justification by October 10th. The awards will be announced at the annual meeting, November 2, 2025. Questions or submissions? Contact Jim Gardner at jameswilsongardner@gmail.com.

CROP WALK

Sunday, October 11th

The youth group is excited to be participating in the CROP Hunger Walk again this year! The walk is done to help provide life saving support such as emergency food and resources, seeds, tools, and programs to help families be able to feed themselves in the future. To donate, find a member of the youth group or contact Rob (rob@maxpres.org).

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 17th, 6-8pm

Our MSPC Deacons are hosting a "Trunk or Treat" to celebrate Halloween! We would love for you to join us by decorating the trunk of your car and/or helping with other aspects of this fun event. Dress up and bring the whole family for a fun-filled night! There will also be a meal in the Fellowship Hall graciously provided by the Deacons.