

RESPONDING

Hymn of Thanksgiving For the fruit of all creation

No. 90

Benediction
Postlude

Will

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL *who are gathered to worship, wherever you are, and whenever you are able to watch this service!*

Have yourself a honkin' good holiday at MCC in North Newton! This drive-thru event on Dec. 11 from 4-6 p.m. is a unique way to safely enjoy some delicious Christmas cheer while supporting the worldwide work of Mennonite Central Committee. Each charcuterie box is composed of seasonal artisan meats and cheeses, olives, fruit, mixed nuts and seasonal treats with crackers served on the side. A box serves two generous appetizer portions. RSVP by 5 p.m. on December 4 to reserve yours! Share your Christmas joy by ordering extra boxes to deliver to family and friends. Take a moment and treat yourself this holiday season! Suggested donation per box is \$25. Email centralstates@mcc.org to reserve your charcuterie box today! Find more information and photos at mcc.org/honkin-holiday.

Noteworthy News! “**Jesus and Friends,**” a video project created by Austin Calem, Deryll Amstutz, Judy Harder and 9 kids, will be shared during FMC’s today’s Service. Last March, the cast and crew began filming outdoor scenes hoping to share them during Easter. Once we realized we needed to take a pause, Austin helped us put together what we had completed. Don’t miss this opportunity to see these scenes filmed in a park and at a farmyard with Maynard Knepp and his donkey friends. We had hoped to also film Holy Week scenes in the Flint Hills; however, we are glad for the ones we have. We know that even if plans are cancelled, Christmas and Easter always take place. We are especially glad to share this 8-minute video the Sunday Maynard will be our guest storytelling preacher.

The Advent of Advent! This Sunday, November 22, is known as “Christ the King Sunday.” It is also the last Sunday of the Christian year, which means that the following Sunday (November 29) is the First Sunday of Advent! The sanctuary will be specially decorated, with lanterns in the windows, and of course the traditional stable on the chancel. As part of each Advent service we will follow the practice of lighting a candle for each Sunday, positioned at different spots within and around the stable. The lighting of Advent candles will be accompanied by the song “Longing for Light,” which is number 1 in our grey songbook and will be number 715 in the new hymnal *Voices Together*, a song appropriate not just for Advent but for the unique times in which we are living. Weekly worship services during the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season will follow the denominational worship curriculum (from *Leader* magazine); the theme

this year is “On the Road.” Each household in the congregation will receive from the Worship and Nurture Committees the gift of an Advent Wreath, which may be used to celebrate the season of Advent at home as well as at church! It is also traditional at FMC on the First Sunday of Advent to share the Lord’s Supper together. Participants will be invited to come forward (row by row, safely distanced and wearing masks) to receive “food for the road” comprised of a cracker and a grape, which we will then eat together to celebrate Communion.

On Sunday, Nov. 29, in addition to being the First Sunday of Advent, our congregation will be one of 100 congregations across the country participating in a program called “Preach Palestine.” The purpose of the program is to heighten awareness that the “holy” land once known as “Palestine,” the land to which the Son of God came and in which he carried out his ministry, is now a land whose indigenous inhabitants face injustice and oppression, and who long for the God of mercy and justice to “tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence” (Isaiah 64:1). Their prayer is the prayer of the psalmist: “Give ear, O shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!” (Psalm 80:1-2). Pastor Tom’s sermon, based on these texts, will focus on the ongoing need for God to tear open the heavens and come down, in Palestine-Israel and in all places that suffer from injustice.

Philippians 4: 4-13

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. ¹⁰ I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

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