

# Responding to God's Word

**Song of faith:** *Joy to the world*..... H 318

**Pastoral prayer**

## Sending

**Sending song:** *Hark! the herald angels sing*..... H 201

### **Benediction:**

Leader: From where we are  
to where you need us

**All: Jesus, lead us on.**

Leader: From the security of what we know  
to the adventure of what you will reveal,

**All: Jesus, lead us on.**

Leader: To refashion the fabric of this world  
until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,

**All: Jesus, lead us on.**

Leader: Because good things have been prepared  
for those who love God,

**All: Jesus, lead us!**

### **Postlude**

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\*H denotes Hymnal: A Worship Book    \*\*CS denotes Companion Songbook

Chorister: Kay Schroeder

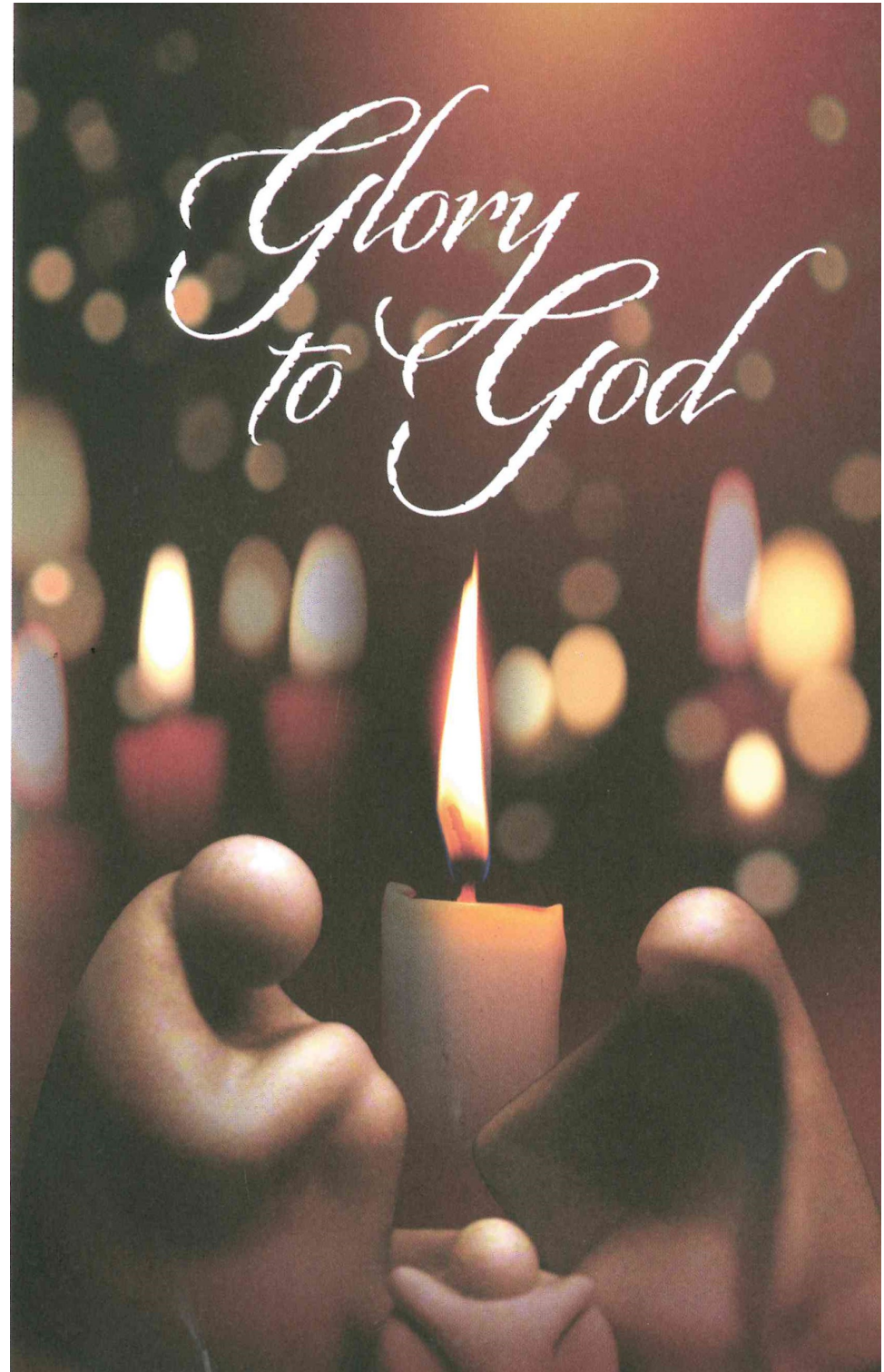
Ushers: Alan Entz, Ryan Nye, Jan Groves, Allen Schmidt

Childcare: Michael or Pamela Garcia, Camryn Entz

Audio Tech: Ron Bachman    Video/Lighting Tech: Eric Murphy

Visuals: Carol Hiebert, Janet Franz, Cindy Unruh

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# Jesus is born!

## Come, walk in the way of God's heart

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Christmas Day: December 25, 2016

### Gathering

**Prelude** ..... Melody Bontrager, pianist

**The work of the people (announcements)**

**Call to worship** ..... Pastors Joel and Kay Schroeder

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord! The fullness of time has come.

**People: As the earth brings forth its shoots,**

Leader: so God sent the Son, born into humanity,

**People: to show us God's heart.**

**All: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Opening prayer**

**Lighting of the Advent candle** ..... Evelyn Gaertner

**Songs of faith:** *Come, Light of the world*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice* ..... \*H 210

### Praising

**Psalm reading:** Psalm 148 ..... Carol, Larry, Amanda, Isaac Entz

**Song of faith:** *O come, all ye faithful* ..... H 212

**Greet one another; children come forward**

**Children's focus** ..... Marissa Murphy

**Song of faith:** *What Child is this* ..... H 215

### Confessing/Reconciling

**Prayer of confession**

Leader: Incarnate God,,

**People: we yearn to walk in your way**

**but often choose our own path of turmoil and pain.**

**Save us, Lord,**

**from the pride and foolishness**

**of choosing our own course,**

**that we may humbly and confidently**

**follow your lead,**

**through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

**Words of assurance**

Leader: Throughout the tumult of life,

God holds you close in love.

Rejoice, because God's wisdom is your guide,

God's compassion is your strength.

God's love is your redemption.

**All: Come, let us walk in the way of God's heart!**

### Offering Gifts

**Offering:** Local Mission

**Offertory**

(Please pass the welcome pads)

### Proclaiming God's Word

**Old Testament reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7 ..... Gary Moore

**Kingdom celebration:** Singing favorite Christmas songs of faith

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-20 ..... Ruby Moore

**Meditation:** *Making Room* ..... Pastor Anita Kehr

**Yearbook update forms** have been put in your mailbox. Please fill out the form if there are any changes and return the form to the box in the Court Area by **today**. If you have family members listed in the Yearbook who do not regularly attend or live out of the area, please fill out a form for them if their information is different from what is in the Yearbook. If you are not currently in the Yearbook and would like to be, please make sure to fill out a form. Extra forms are also available in the Court Area.

**Be sure to stop by the bulletin board** and see the Christmas card that was sent to us from Tatiana Rodrigues.

**Jennifer Kaufman, MCC SALT in Bolivia**—The Outreach Commission encourages you to share blessings with Jennifer via letter, email, or Facebook. If you would like to write a note, simply bring it to the office and we'll mail it. Jennifer said it could take one week to two months for her to get mail. Jennifer's email is [jenniferkaufman@mcc.org](mailto:jenniferkaufman@mcc.org). Or look for her on Facebook and ask to join the Talita Cumi Facebook page. Thanks for your support and prayers of Jennifer! You can learn more through Jennifer's blog - [jenniferkaufmanbolivia.wordpress.com](http://jenniferkaufmanbolivia.wordpress.com).

**Newton Community for Racial Justice** will have a anti-racism training. The training will be held February 17-19, 2017, at the Newton Recreation Center. If you have any questions or to request a registration form, please visit the Roots of Justice website at [rootsofjusticetraining.org](http://rootsofjusticetraining.org). Cost per participant is \$250 if registered by January 9, 2017.

**Are you interested in the Anti-Racism Training Feb 17-19?** Outreach Commission is providing scholarships, which will cover part or the whole cost. Talk with Miriam Regier by January 1, if you would like a scholarship. You can reach Miriam at [miriam.regier@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.regier@gmail.com) or (316) 734-8705.

**The Property Committee needs your help** to maintain our facility! There are several projects that need completing, and we want you to have the opportunity to help. We need help with raking leaves around the church building and in the flower beds, painting the walls and ceiling in the balcony classroom, and installing pipe insulation and replacing a few ceiling tiles in the Jr. High room. Contact Jordan Miller, Alan Entz, Clint Litsey, Ryan Nye, or Rod Schmidt for more information.

**If you have pictures from church events** during 2016 and would like to share them, please send them to the Church Office at [office@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:office@firstmennonitenewton.org) by **Wednesday, December 28**.

**Prayer is one of God's gifts to us.** If you would like to pray in a set-aside room for that purpose, the prayer room is available whenever the church is open in Room #113. The weekly prayer and praise notes can remind you of some of the situations needing intercession.

### Community Announcements

**Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus enrollment** is now underway. All men and boys who enjoy singing are encouraged to sign up by December 31, so that the music packets can be ordered. The concert schedule for 2017 is April 30, at Pressor Hall in Lindsborg; May 7, at Hesston High School in Hesston; and June 25, at Grace Cathedral in Topeka. For more information contact Vernon Frey at 283-4803.

**Bethel College is offering many of its classes for community audit.** You pay \$50 per credit hour (compared to the normal audit rate of \$85 per hour) OR, if you're age 62 and older, a flat rate of \$30. For more information, go to [bethelks.edu/audit](http://bethelks.edu/audit), where there are links for **interterm 2017 course schedule** (enrollment deadline is **January 4**) and **spring 2017 course schedule** (enrollment deadline **February 13**).

**Circles of Hope, Harvey County** will host our first ever soup supper and dessert auction on Tuesday, January 31, at the First United Methodist Church, 801 N. Main, Newton, Kansas. Enjoy a delicious dinner from 5:30 to 6:15 PM at our by-donation soup supper and then make your bid on some mouth-watering desserts from 6:15 to 7:30 PM, with guest auctioneer Mike Flavin! All proceeds benefit Circles of Hope, a relationship-based initiative aimed at helping families achieve financial stability through education and community support.

**Join MCC on a Learning Tour to Kenya February 27-March 11, 2017!** Tour highlights include seeing a sand dam in action, learning more about sustainable food projects, meeting the kids at MCC-supported education programs and enjoying a one-day safari. Contact Anna Yoder at [annayoder@mcc.org](mailto:annayoder@mcc.org) or 316-283-2720 for more information.

**Kauffman Museum at Bethel College** seeks artifacts, letters, photos and documents that tell the story of conscientious objectors during World War I. To learn more, or if you have an item for donation or long-term loan, please contact museum director Annette LeZotte at [alezotte@bethelks.edu](mailto:alezotte@bethelks.edu) or 316-283-1612.

## SR. HIGH YOUTH

*Together in Christ: rooted deeply,  
reaching widely, loving well.*

**THIS WEEK!**

TODAY—Sunday, Dec. 25  
» NO Sunday School  
» 10:30 am—Worship



Wednesday, December 28

» 7:00 pm—We'll be decorating cookies and distributing them!  
Come and help make the world a little sweeter!

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day—Jesus is Born

No Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service

### Monday, December 26

Jail Ministry: Gary and Ruby Moore, Arlen Wiens  
Church Office Closed

### Wednesday, December 28

7:00 PM Youth Group—FH

### Sunday, January 1—New Year's—God's Hope

9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service

### Upcoming Worship Services

January 8—Epiphany—The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God's heart—God's Radiance, we will celebrate communion.



**WELCOME TO EVERYONE** who has come to worship and especially to those who are here for the first time. May you experience the loving embrace of God today. Nursery Care, infants to age 2, is provided during the worship service in the nursery located at the back of the Sanctuary. Childcare is available for children ages 2-4 during the worship service in Room 223. If you need help finding your way, ask an usher at the door. We would be glad to help you!

**"Meet the Congregation"** displays now feature Chris and Stephanie Weaver and family, Tim and Anne Wiens and family, and Arlen and Carol Wiens. Take a look at the display cases by the Library and Court Area and learn more about each family.

### First Mennonite Church by the numbers

#### Attendance:

- Worship—237; Visitors—5
- Sunday School—164; Messiah—445

**Offering:** Last week's offering for Local Mission was \$7,951. The offering for January 1 is for Mennonite Mission Network.

**The offering for Local Missions** on December 18 was \$7,951. This means that we need approximately \$38,000 to meet expenses for the year 2016. All gifts dated by December 31 will be used for the 2016 year. Thank you for your support!

~Financial Stewardship Committee

**New Vision and Mission Statements approved.** By a vote of 107 yes and 2 no, the congregation approved a constitutional amendment to adopt a new Vision and Mission statement at the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11. Thank you to those who participated in writing, presenting, and voting for these statements.

~Janice Good, Moderator

**THANK YOU to the** Nurture Commission, the Worship Commission, parents, teachers, choir members, and the children for giving their time and talents resulting in a most wonderful, worshipful Christmas Eve service. You and your efforts are deeply appreciated!

**Pastor Anita will be** out of the office until January 5.

**The Church Office will be closed** on Monday, December 26, in observance of the holiday.

**Please help make FMC a safe place for everyone.** To keep everyone safe at First Mennonite, you are asked to make sure all doors are locked if you are the last one to leave the building; to lock the doors during your meeting; to provide door "hosts/monitors" during your events; and to call 911 if you encounter someone in the church who makes you feel uncomfortable or is exhibiting strange behavior.



**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**  
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**Pastoral Team**  
Anita Kehr, Pastor ..... 316-283-5598  
Joel Schroeder, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults..... 316-215-2497  
Kay Schroeder, Pastor of Worship and Visitation ..... 316-217-1272

**Administrative Assistant** ..... 316-283-0273  
Tracy Kerr.....

**Custodian**  
Gordon Flickner ..... 316-217-1346