

## *MM Email Thanksgiving Eve Blue Sheet 2012*

### *Morgan's Moment...*

A lump in my throat...  
    actually moisture in my eye  
    last Thursday night.  
One of our semi-occasional times  
    for our "never on Sunday"  
    Moment potlucks.  
Thanksgiving type songs  
    not exactly church style  
    but they're singable.  
We quoted "Psalms Now..."  
    *Let us begin... with singing  
    whether we feel like it or not.*  
That's when it got to me...  
    friends trying to sing  
    feeling like it or not.  
"Count your many blessings..."  
    morphed into  
    *count your many losses.*  
Yet the guy who sleeps by the river  
    says to my "good morning"  
    *"I'm thankful it's not raining"*  
I sing on wondering about  
    those who are thankful  
    feel like it or not.  
    Art Morgan

### BOOK CORNER

Just in time for the arrival of Advent:

*"Did Jesus Exist? The Historical Argument for Jesus of Nazareth"*

Bart Ehrman writes:

*"Virtually every sane historian on the planet -- Christian, Jewish, Muslim, pagan, agnostic, atheist, what have you -- has come to conclude based on a range of compelling historical evidence... Whether we like it or not, Jesus certainly existed."*

There is less consensus on the part of scholars about what can actually be known about Jesus and what he actually did and said.

He's a good teacher.

### THANKSGIVING EVE DAY THOUGHTS

We're at our Puget Sound place for Thanksgiving week as has been our custom for many, many years. Just the two of us. We had our family Thanksgiving gathering last Sunday.

The wood fire is warming us as it will cook our one pot meal tomorrow. It began to hail as I started writing. An omen? Wind now and heavy rain. The metal roof resounds.

I glance at the shelf above my computer screen. I notice a "Thank You" card. I pause to read it. From a wedding on a Sunny day in August. *"Thanks for everything!"*

It reminded me of the song Paul sang for us this past Thursday. *"Thank you God... I guess."* It's an Avery and Marsh song. The song lists everything people can think of... animals and insects, wars and cancer and every reality you can imagine, good and bad. The tag line repeated is, *"Thank you God... .. I guess."*

The song must be a response to a Scripture verse (Avery and Marsh were preachers), most likely the troublesome text from I Thessalonians... *"Give thanks in all circumstances..."* That's a tough verse to live up to. You can Google it up and find a variety of ways preachers try to dance with this thought.

Which reminded me of Anne Lamott's new book, *"Help-Thanks-Wow: The Three Essential Prayers."* I haven't read the book, but believe it would work for believers in whatever, and agnostics alike. One of those should work in all circumstances. In fact, in all likelihood they are very honest, spontaneous utterances of all humans in special times in their lives. My mystic friend, Hayden Stewart, used the "Wow" word as his main prayer word many years ago.

Anyway, this Thanksgiving when you may be searching for some prayer that fits your specific situation, I hope in my heart that your prayer is not "Help!" and that you have had reprieves that stir up "Thanks!" and that you may have some unbidden, over-awesome moments where your word is "Wow!" — Art Morgan, Thanksgiving Eve 2012

### NOTICE TO OUR LOCAL MOMENT PEOPLE

**Annual Advent Sunday Brunch at 10 AM  
Hathaway/Peterson Home 3230 NW Garfield, Corvallis**

