

Congregation: *The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.*

Leader: The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Congregation: *He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.*

All: *Our mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.*

***Hymn of Adoration** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #194

* **Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession Matthew 1:20–21

Prayer of Confession

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon 2 Corinthians 5:21

Pastoral Prayer

◆ **Welcome** (Please date, sign, and pass the friendship registers.)

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Sentences 1 Chronicles 29:11–14

Offertory Music People, Look East ~ C. Steel Sanctuary Choir

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table. People, look East and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look East and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen He for fledging time has chosen. People, look East, and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look East, and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East. Set every peak and valley humming with the news the Lord is coming. People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

* **Response** Doxology #733

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below: alleluia, alleluia! Praise him above ye heav'nly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* **Offertory Prayer**

* **Song of Preparation** What Child Is This #213

Children's Sermon

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:6–7

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon TO US A CHILD IS BORN Mr. Jim Roberts
- THE EVERLASTING FATHER-

* **Hymn of Response** God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen #211

* **Benediction**

Postlude Noël No. 10 - Grand jeu et duo ~ L. C. D'Aquin



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carols of the Christ Child, our Christmas concert, will be presented tonight at 5:00 P.M. This is a great time to invite friends to Westminster to hear the gospel presented in music and scripture. Please bring a large platter of heavy hors d'oeuvres for reception after the concert.

Cusco calendars—2010 calendars, featuring and benefiting the children of the Josephine House in Cusco, Peru, are available for purchase from the church office. 100% of the proceeds go to the Josephine House. Sample calendars are in the narthex and fellowship hall foyer.

From the treasurer—We experienced a significant increase in giving in over the last 6 weeks and have reduced our yearly operating deficit to just under \$3,000, a remarkable achievement in a very difficult economic environment. With a small increase in giving from each one of us in December, a surplus for the year is within reach.

Join us for Caroling this Wednesday. Although there will be no regular Wednesday programs this week you are invited to join us for caroling in the community. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall foyer at 6:30 p.m. if you are able to come. Watch the weather and dress appropriately!

The **2010 Congregational Meeting** will be held Sunday, January 10 at 12:15 pm. At that time we will elect elders, hear a presentation of the 2010 budget as well as other matters deemed necessary by the Session.

Youth Christmas Party

Friday, December 18 ●7:00—9:00 PM

All youth are invited to come to the Moore's home in Laurens for a great time of fun, food and fellowship.



Bring a dessert to share as well as a goofy gift for the gift exchange.