

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 7, 2008 10:00 a.m.

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*Our mission is to change peoples' lives
through a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

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~WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE~

Greeting of Peace

Prelude *"F Major Invention"* *J. S. Bach*

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call To Worship

L: We step into this new day listening to God's great story.
(Place Bible on the table.)

P: **We make ready for God's freedom.**

L: We step into new purposes for the church with the light of God before us.
(Light the candle.)

P: **We make ready for God's freedom.**

L: We step into new purposes for our lives as we taste God's reminders of hope.
(Pour juice into the chalice and unwrap the bread.)

P: **We make ready for God's freedom.**

***Hymn** *"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"* **#557**

Opening Prayer:

Great God, we move into this time and space with our sight and our smell, with our listening and our touch, with our hearts and our minds, so that we may live inside your stories. Help us remember who we are as your children as we celebrate the purpose you give us as your people. Amen.

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church

Offertory *"The Gift of Love"* **#408**

Doxology

#95

Offertory Prayer

We dedicate this money as one evidence of our stewardship, Loving God. Our silver and gold have no value except as they are invested according to your purposes. Our lives gain value as we give our time and talents in loving service. Use all that we have and give to build the community you intend, through Christ. Amen.

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~

A Time for the Child in All of Us

Reading of the Word

Epistle: *Romans 13: 8-14*

Gospel: *Matthew 18: 15-20*

Anthem *"Hymn Medley"*

The Message *Rev. Michele Ewers*

A Time For Prayer

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~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~

Celebration of the Sacrament

Invitation **Pg 12**

Prayer of Confession

Great Restorer of Life, we get disappointed when we try to understand who we are by the things we accomplish or the things we own or the labels others give us. So we return to you and ask you to give us a sense of what you have created us to be. Help us find a common identity in the stories of your powerful works so that we can remind one another of who we are in your name.

~Silence~

Assurance of Pardon

Sing to the Holy One a new song! Praise God with dancing, with tambourine and lyre. God takes pleasure in all God's people, offering forgiveness, hope, and a way when it seems there is no way. Let us live in God's freeing presence. Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread & Cup

"Sing Alleluia To The Lord"

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~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~

Hymn *"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"* **Insert**

Sending Forth:

L: We are children of God and neighbors to one another; therefore let us live as God's family.

P: **We are the church, the body of Christ; therefore, we bind and free in Christ's name.**

L: We are a people of prayer and action, therefore we dare to trust God to lead us.

All: **God will be our help and our shield; God's steadfast love will be our strength. We will listen and speak as God empowers us and we will allow God to use us to serve the world.**

***Closing Song** *"I Will Celebrate"* **Insert**

~Bringing The Light Into the World~