

**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
September 28, 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

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

L: When we are hungry for a sustaining faith, we ask,

P: **Are you among us, O God?**

L: When we are thirsty for justice and peace, we ask,

P: **Are you among us, O God?**

L: As wandering people who long for mercy, we ask,

P: **Are you among us, O God?**

L: Secure in the freedom of your love, we ask,

P: **Are you among us, O God?**

Hymn *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"* **#140**

Opening Prayer

O God, how shall we know you? How can we experience your presence with us? Do you really know our names and care about each one of us? If we have found favor in your sight, how will that be known? We cannot see you with our eyes, or hear your voice with our ears. Speak to us in language that our souls can receive. Enlighten our inner being, that joy may radiate in our actions. Work in and among us, that we may glimpse your pleasure for all humanity. Amen

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church

A Time For The Child In All Of Us

Offertory

Doxology

#95

Offertory Prayer

Thank you God, for the generosity that enables us to share. We are rich in so many ways. Help us to empty ourselves of pretense, even as we pour out gifts of gratitude. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to shaping that community you intend, in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~

Anthem *"All I Once Held Dear"* *Graham Kendrick*

Reading of the Word

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 17: 1-7

Gospel: Matthew 21: 23-32

Hymn *"He Is Lord"* **#177**

The Message *Rev. Michele Ewers*

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~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~

A Time for Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~

Hymn *“Jesus, Name Above All Names”* **#2071**

Sending Forth

L: Depart to serve, in obedience and faith; there is work for us all in God’s vineyard.

P: **We dare to respond as disciples of Jesus; we believe that God will bless our labors.**

L: Share affection and sympathy, inspired by love; there are many who need our encouragement.

P: **We seek the mind of Christ in all encounters; we trust God to supply the courage we lack.**

L: A gracious and merciful God goes with us; the glory of God will be revealed among us.

P: **We commit ourselves anew to daily prayer; surely God is at work in our midst. Amen.**

Closing Song *“My Redeemer Lives”*

I know He rescued my soul, His blood covered my sin
I believe, I believe.

My shame He’s taken away, my pain is healed in His name
I believe, I believe.

I’ll raise a banner ‘cause my Lord has conquered the grave
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.

You lift my burden and I rise with You,
I’m dancing on this mountain top to see Your Kingdom come.

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~Bringing the Light into the World~