

**Second Sunday Of Advent
December 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 *"Prepare Ye"* *Stephine Schwartz
Resound! & Choir*

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prayer: God, you gave us Jesus, and the story of Jesus is for the whole world. May we light this candle and may the flame remind us of Jesus who brings peace to everyone. Amen.

***Hymn** *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* **#211**

Opening Prayer:

Comfort us, O God, with a comfort that strengthens us for the world. Comfort us, O God, with a comfort that encourages us to trust you. Comfort us, O God, with a comfort that inspires us to be messengers of hope that our world may be transformed, and that it may begin here, in this place and among these people. Comfort us, O God, with a comfort that renews our living and our worship.

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church

Offertory *"God Will Make A Way"*

Doxology **#95**

Offertory Prayer

By amazing grace we have received the gifts that we share today. For all these good gifts we give humble thanks. Now, O God, we would like to share some of your bounty. Use these gifts to feed your flocks and carry your lambs to safety. Amen.

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~

Reading of the Word

Hebrew Scripture *Isaiah 40: 1-11*

Gospel *Mark 1: 1-8*

Anthem

Message *Rev. Michele Ewers*

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~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~

Celebration of the Sacrament

Invitation **Pg 12**

Prayer of Confession

L: For the seed we have planted called "injustice," that destroys the land and the community, where some have and others have nothing,

P: **forgive us.**

L: For the seed we have planted called "conflict," that ruins the earth and the lives of the many, and where only weeping silence can fully tell the story,

P: **forgive us.**

L: For the seed we have planted called "imbalance," that bears the fruit of frazzled lives where the Sabbath way is neglected and restoration is unknown,

P: **forgive us.**

L: For the seed we have planted called "prejudice," that disfigures the beauty of nature and the faces of your people, where what is said and unsaid disfigures love,

P: **forgive us.**

L: For the seed we have planted called "faithlessness," that cares nothing for the ground or the lives of your people where a blessing is never offered and worth never celebrated,

P: **forgive us.**

