

**Epiphany Sunday**  
**January 4, 2009 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:** Arise, for the glory of God is shining on us. Shadows shall cover the earth, but the brightness of God's presence is upon us. Lift up your eyes and look around,
- P:** **arise and shine for our light has come!**
- L:** Nations will be drawn to our light, and rulers to the dawning of our new day; people are gathering to come home. Lift up your eyes and look around,
- P:** **arise and shine for our light has come!**
- L:** We will see this and be filled with joy; we will tremble with excitement. Great caravans will come, bringing gifts of praise. Everyone will tell the good news of what God has done. Lift up your eyes and look around,
- P:** **arise and shine for our light has come!**

**Hymn** *"The First Noel"* #245

**Opening Prayer:**

O Shining Light, we give thanks for the light of this day, for the light of eternal love, for the light of the journey to justice and peace, and for the light of your grace in our lives. Shine through us, we pray, that the light of joy may spread through the world. Amen.

**This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church**

**Offertory** *"Star Child"* # 2095

**Doxology** #95

**Offertory Prayer**

Take the gifts we offer, O God. Use them to pass on the story that we have received. Use them to further the faith that has nurtured us and brought us to this place. We also offer ourselves, and re-dedicate ourselves as disciples. Re-ignite the gifts you have placed within us, that we might serve you in big things and little things, each and every day. Amen.

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**~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~**

**Reading of the Word**

**Hebrew Scripture** *Isaiah 60: 1-6*

**A Time for the Child in All of Us**

**Gospel:** *Matthew 2: 1-12*

**Anthem** *"We All Bow Down"*

**A Time For Prayer**

**Insert**

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**~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~**  
**Celebration of the Sacrament**

**Invitation**

**Pg 12**

**Prayer of Confession**

- L:** As the wise ones sought Jesus by following a star, let us follow the star-child in the Christ-light of peace.
- P:** **Holy light of God, shine on us.**
- L:** As the wise ones dared to trust in the wonders of the sky, let us walk in the ways of compassion together in the wonder of true community on earth.
- P:** **Holy light of God, shine on us.**
- L:** As the wise ones returned to their country by another road, let us travel a new path to justice and kindness.
- P:** **Holy light of God, shine on us.**

**Assurance of pardon**

- L:** The gifts of the star-child are healing of heart, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the abiding presence of the Spirit in suffering and joy, and power to life anew.
- P:** **Thanks be to God!**

## A Time For Prayer

**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**                      *"We Three Kings"*                      **#254**

**Sending Forth:**

**L:**     O Shining Light, we give thanks for the light of this day, for the light of eternal love, for the light of the journey to justice and peace, and for the light of your grace in our lives.

**All:**   **Shine through us, we pray, that the light of joy may spread through the world. Amen.**

**\*Closing Song**                      *"This Little Light of Mine"*                      **#585**

**~Bringing The Light Into the World~**

**L:**     Light of peace, in the name of Christ, who came as light for the world, we pray for the faithful who seek the light of true community on earth.

*(moment of silence)*

God, in your love,

**P:**     **hear our prayer.**

**L:**     Light of justice, in the name of Christ, born a Jew in Roman regions, we pray for the persecuted who suffer for reasons of gender or race, faith or politics.

*(moment of silence)*

God, in your love,

**P:**     **hear our prayer.**

**L:**     Light of hope, in the name of Christ, who was born in a stable, we pray for those who are in need of shelter, food, and meaningful work.

*(moment of silence)*

God, in your love,

**P:**     **hear our prayer.**

**L:**     Light of compassion, in the name of Christ, for whom nowhere was safe, we pray for the fearful, the bereaved, and the sick, for all who are in pain and special need.

*(moment of silence)*

God, in your love,

**P:**     **hear our prayer.**

**L:**     Light of our souls, call us onward into light, today and forever.

**All:**   **Amen.**