

**Third Sunday After The Epiphany  
January 25, 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:** Come, with undivided attention, to meet God, who calls you away from old routines.

**P:** **Our souls wait for God in silence. We hope in God, our rock and our salvation.**

**L:** Come, without anxiety or fear, for God cares for you.

**P:** **We come with devotion to our Lord, in whom time is fulfilled and life has meaning.**

**L:** Enter the realm of God, which is here and now, as well as beyond time and place.

**All:** **We pour out our hearts before God, whom we trust and honor.**

**Hymn**        *"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"*        **#344**

**Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, we seek comfort and reassurance in your presence. We bring our commitments and our works before you because yours is the only standard that finally matters. We open ourselves to your direction, confident that you see value and purpose in our lives that we ourselves cannot discern. Deliver us in this hour from all that separates us from experiencing communion with you. Amen.

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

**A Time For The Child In All Of Us**

**Offertory**        *"You're Worthy of My Praise"*        *David Ruis*

**Doxology**        **#95**

**Offertory Prayer**

May these gifts of time, talent, and treasure proclaim your saving action in Jesus Christ. Through our offerings empower this church to share the good news we have heard. Fill us with your peace, that we may live more fully as peacemakers. Expand the horizons of our understanding and expectation, that we may move with confidence into those wider arenas where you call us to serve. Amen.

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

**Anthem**        *"Lord I Want to Be a Christian"*        *arr. by John Carter*

**Reading of the Word**

**Epistle**        *1 Corinthians 7: 29-31*

**Gospel**        *Mark 1:14-20*

**Hymn**        *"I Will Call Upon the Lord"*        **#2002**

**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**                      *“Cry of My Heart”*                      **#2165**

**Sending Forth**

**L:**     The time is fulfilled; God’s realm is at hand. Set your hearts on God’s new day.

**P:**     **In confidence and hope we face the new life God intends for us.**

**L:**     Believe the good news of the Gospel and follow where Jesus leads.

**P:**     **With renewed devotion and trust we declare ourselves ready to heed God’s direction.**

**L:**     Receive the assurance of God’s steadfast love, which is constant and dependable.

**All:**   **In silence our souls wait for God, that our steps may follow in Christ’s way. Amen.**

**Closing Song**        *“I Have Decided To Follow Jesus”*                      **#2129**

**~Bringing the Light into the World~**

*Call To Worship, Opening Prayer,  
Offertory Prayer and Sending Forth,  
from Whispers of God, By Lavon Bayler*

*Other Lectionary Readings for today:  
Jonah 3: 1 -5, 10  
Psalm 62: 5-12*