

**Third Sunday In Lent  
March 15, 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**                    *"Joy Prelude"*                    *J.S.Bach*  
**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

**Call to Worship**

**L:** O God, our Guide and Guardian you have led us apart from the busy world into the quiet of your house.

**P:** **Grant us grace to worship you in Spirit and in truth, to the comfort of our souls and the building up of every good purpose and holy desire.**

**L:** Enable us to do more perfectly the work to which you have called us.

**All:** **May we worship you not only with our lips at this hour, but in word, and deed all the days of our lives.**

**Hymn**                    *"Morning Has Broken"*                    **#145**

**Opening Prayer**

O God, we come to this holy place, not for what we can gain, but to honor your name, not that others may think well of us, but that we may pour out our thanksgiving. May we desire your truth more than gold, your word more than the sweetness of honey, and the power of your commandments beyond all our excuses. Keep us aware of your presence and make yourself known to us in ways we can not mistake. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

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

**Offertory**                    *"I Thought About You Lord"*                    *arr: Nelson*

**Doxology**                    **#95**

**Offertory Prayer**

As we honor you with these gifts, O God, we give thanks for all your blessings and pray that you will help us to be good stewards. Keep us from trading on your generosity for our own benefit rather than participating fully in your caring love for all humanity. May we be disciples and servants, not self-seeking money changers. Amen.

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

**Anthem**                    *"You Just Can't Make It By Yourself"*                    *arr: Dane*

**Reading of the Word**

**Hebrew Scripture**                    *Exodus 20: 1-17*  
**Gospel**                    *John 2:13-22*

**Hymn**                    *"Shall We Gather at the River"*                    **#723**

**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**                    *“When the Roll is Called Up Yonder”*                    **Insert**

**Sending Forth**

**L:** Go forth in the joy of serving God and keeping God’s commands and ordinances.

**P:** **God’s ways are not burdensome, and God’s wisdom, in Christ, empowers us.**

**L:** Receive God’s wisdom and strength to guide all your thoughts and actions.

**All:** **We receive anew God’s perfect law of love, with rejoicing hearts and enlightened eyes. Amen.**

**Closing Song**                    *“Stand By Me”*                    **#512**

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

*Call to Worship from the United Methodist Book of Worship,  
Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer, Sending Forth  
from Whispers of God, By Lavon Bayler*

*Other Lectionary Readings for Today:  
Psalm 1:9  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25*