

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 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 *"Chariots of Fire"* *Vangelis*
Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

L: Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and run with perseverance the course marked out before us.

P: **May we run straight for you, Lord. Let us drop the petty jealousies, unfounded prejudices and sin which so easily discourages, as we behold your majesty.**

L: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.

P: **May we behold you steadfastly. Let us drop our fears as we consider the heavenly joys you have set before us.**

L: Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

All: **May we consider your life, Jesus. Let us drop anger and discouragement as we consider the injustice and apparent futility you endured. Give us the grace to run with perseverance. Amen.**

Hymn *"Rock of Ages"* **#361**

Opening Prayer

Come among us, God, to teach us. Make haste to help us, for we are deeply aware of our need. The race of life appears to us to be too demanding. Our defeats are difficult to bear. Only you can deliver us from depression and despair. May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. May all who search for truth know your greatness and embrace your salvation. Amen.

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church

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

Offertory *"Earthen Vessels"*

Doxology **#95**

Offertory Prayer

In our poverty, you have come to us, great and mighty God. When our spirits are crushed by the harsh realities of life, you restore our hope. When we think we have nothing to give, you shower us with riches beyond our imagining. So now, with joy, we rededicate all that we have and all that we are becoming to you. We bring these offerings before you knowing that we need to give in order to live fully the life you so graciously give to us. Amen.

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~

Anthem

Reading of the Word

Hebrew Scripture *Isaiah 40: 28-31*

Epistle *Hebrews 12: 1-3*

Hymn *"Father, I Adore You"* **#2038**

The Message *"Running the Race of Faith"* *Mr. Glenn King*

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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 *“The Gift of Love”* **#408**

Sending Forth

L: We have received our Savior’s love. God has given us voice to share that Good News.

P: **Thanks be to God for the love we have received. It is a joy to tell others about that love.**

L: Go then, as a people who truly believe! Lift up those who are weary and fainthearted.

P: **We will run with joy the race of life! Jesus is our model, our guide, and our strength.**

L: Share the Good News of God’s saving grace with all who will listen!

All: **May Christ be glorified in all we do and say. God is our help every day! Amen.**

Closing Song *“They’ll Know We Are Christians”* **#2223**

~Bringing the Light into the World~

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer and Sending Forth, are from Gathered By Love, by Lavon Bayler