

**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**October 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**

**Opening Song**      *"I Want Jesus To Walk With Me"*      **#521**

*Lighting of the Altar Candles*

**Call To Worship**

**L:** Friends, we gather as fellow travelers, awake to possibility, but worn by life's demands. We come broken, yet remain ever hopeful. We come weary, yet remain expectant.

**P:** *At home in God, enfolded by love, we come to be encouraged and renewed in the peace and wholeness that is Jesus the Christ for us.*

**Hymn**                      *"Tell Me The Stories of Jesus"*                      **#277**

**Opening Prayer**

Mother and Father of us all, glad of your welcome and with gratitude for your acceptance, we seek new insights in this time, and hearts made more willing to share your love with the world. Hold us, ennoble us, challenge and equip us in the ways and being of Christ. Amen.

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

**Offertory**                      *"More Love More Power"*                      **Insert**

**Doxology**                      **#95**

**Offertory Prayer**

Holy One, amazed by your kindness, moved by your generosity, and inspired by your compassion, we offer these gifts as we pledge ourselves to the service of Christ and to his vision for a renewed and just world. Amen.

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

**Reading of the Word**

**Gospel**                      *Mark 10:2-16*

**Anthem**                      *"Who Am I?"*                      *Casting Crowns*

**Message**                      *Rev. Michele Ewers*

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**~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~**

**Celebration of the Sacrament**

**Invitation**                      **Pg 12**

**Prayer of Confession**

Life is so complex and uncertain, O God. Moments of togetherness can quickly turn into feelings of loss, fear, or estrangement. In the short space of one day, all can be turned on its head and we are left longing for familiarity, crying out for wholeness and hope. We confess in such seasons of life our grief, hurt, and anxiety can unnecessarily distance us from you and others; a keen sense of brokenness becoming but a barrier to needed healing, and a poor excuse for prolonged anger and bitterness. And so we turn again to you seeking an embrace of love and mercy to help ease the pain – to give courage and grace for the living. Secure in your enfolding arms, may we dare to trust and let go, re-finding our rest and hope for the journey onwards.

*(Pause for Silent Reflection.)*

**Words of assurance**

**L:** Friends, hear the good news: The Spirit of God is at work to bring about the peace and healing we so desire. Open and attentive to Spirit's life-giving ways, we are a forgiven and free people.

**P:** **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Sharing the Bread & Cup**

*Sending Forth Home Communion Ministers*

*"Sing Alleluia To The Lord"*

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***~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~***

**Hymn**                      *"How Majestic Is Your Name"*                      **#2023**

**Sending Forth**

**L:**     Sisters and brothers, held in the arms of God, secure in both person and calling, go into the world with renewed courage and kindness being all you can be in the name of the Christian faith.

**P:**     *And may the enfolding love of God, the drawing beauty of Christ, and the wonderment of the Spirit uphold us and sustain us until we meet again. Amen!*

**Closing Song**                      *"My Redeemer Lives"*                      **Insert**

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

*Call To Worship, Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer, Prayer of Confession and Sending Forth are from Seasons of the Spirit.*

*Other Lectionary readings for October 4th are:*

*Job 1:1; 2:1-10*

*Psalm 26*

*Hebrews 1:1-4, 2::5-12*