

Epiphany Sunday
January 3, 2010 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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Greeting of Peace

Prelude

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call To Worship

L: Arise, shine; for your light has come. The glory of God has risen among us.

P: *We are awake; we are alive! Praise God for deliverance and blessings.*

L: Lift up your eyes to see all around you. Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.

P: *May justice water the earth like a shower; let righteousness and peace abound.*

L: Receive again the promises of the gospel. Participate in the mystery of Jesus Christ.

All: *God's ways are being revealed to us today. Let us proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ.*

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church

Offertory "What Child Is This" #219

Doxology #95

Offertory Prayer

Help us, O God, to give as we are able and to rejoice in the opportunity of sharing. We bring our gifts as an act of awe and wonder, knowing that you multiply our efforts. Take us, the very least of your saints, and use us, along with our gifts, to make Christ known. Amen.

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230, vs. 1-3

Prayer of Confession

Baby Jesus, tell me how it is you are born
in every shade of skin.
I saw you once on the train to Lujan.
Your father played pan flutes for coins,
your mother walked the aisle, palms out,
and you rode, limp as a doll in that sling on her back.
I saw you, too, in a squatter's camp – Luanda, Angola.
I'd followed Louise, the missionary, to sewing class.
All of us wondered what your mother
would name you once certain you would live.
I remember how I saw you affixed with tubes
in the intensive care, this side of the world.
There were problems with your birth.
Your parents struggle even now
to accept you as you are.

And I nearly missed you yesterday, downtown,
your mother too young,
the cup at your feet cradling a bit of change.
The bitter wind distracted me, and the concrete sky,
the accumulation of trash.
I'll admit I didn't want to see you in that place.
I don't need to tell you
the daily news is bad and getting worse.
Oh, light no darkness can overcome,
let me not forget that every moment,
still, still, you are born.

(A Prayer to the Infant Christ by Pamela Porter Used by permission.)

Words of Assurance

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230, vs. 4

Light for the People

Based on the Gospel of John 1: 1-18

Prayers of the People

A Modern Affirmation

#885

