

Human Relations Sunday
January 17, 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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~WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE~

Greeting of Peace

Prelude

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Litany For Human Relations Sunday

L: The weeping in Ramah (*Matthew 2:18*) has been loud, and nothing will comfort the cries of mothers whose children will never come home.

P: *Oh God, hear our cries and send healing, change and unity to your land.*

L: Innocent blood cries out from the soil for lives taken because of the color of their skin, their gender, and cultural differences.

P: *Oh God, hear our cries and send healing, change and unity to our land.*

L: We have marched, sung, and run, we have prayed, watched, and waited for a change to come.

P: *We have buried loved ones, leaders slain in their prime; and our families have suffered for the hatred that has plagued our land.*

L: We've seen our dreams delayed and fade with the passing of time, hoping, praying that a brighter future would come for our children and grandchildren.

P: *We listened to "I have a dream" speeches; we chanted with the crowd "Yes, we can!" We believed in a new day when we too would be seen, treated as accepted, protected as American. AND, God has heard our cries and is sending healing, change and unity to our land.*

L: We stand together, Black, White, Jews, Gentiles, Muslims, church and unchurched. Together we watch the dream become a reality as we put aside our differences and hold hands.

P: *God has heard our cries and is sending healing, change, and unity to our land.*

L: Yes, we celebrate this day our unity in God. Our differences serve as a reminder of how precious each of us is in the human tapestry of life and that the future holds great things for the next generation.

All: *Yes, God has heard our cries. Yes, healing, change, and unity are sweeping the land!*

Written by Rev. Sharletta M. Green

Anthem "In the Name of Love" U2
In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church

A Time For The Child In All Of Us

Offertory "Pictures of Jesus" Harper

Doxology #95

Offertory Prayer

God of our baptism, who's Holy Spirit fires our imagination and fills our lives with purpose, we rejoice to commit ourselves anew with our gifts. May what we share strengthen your children spiritually, inspiring each person to invest fully in the work you set before us. The varieties of gifts you entrust to us can be realized only if they are used. Thank you for granting us this joy. Amen.

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~

Hymn "On Eagles Wings" Insert

Reading of the Word

Epistle 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

Gospel John 2: 1-11

Hymn "He Turned the Water" Insert

Message Rev. Michele Ewers

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~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~

A Time For Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~

Hymn *"Come Thou Fount"* **#400**

Sending Forth

- L:** Depart to serve, strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Use the wisdom, faith, and knowledge you received.
- P:** *We cannot rest in God's care or keep silent. The love of God must be lived and shared.*
- L:** Go forth with praise on your lips. The steadfast love of God will light your paths.
- P:** *We want to offer light and hope to others. Daily we will seek inspiration for the joyous task.*
- L:** Reach out as listening, caring, healing people. Your love will become a miracle for someone in need.
- All:** *We pray that God will keep us open to further learning. May our humble witness attract others to Christ. Amen.*

Closing Song *"Will The Circle Be Unbroken?"* **Insert**

~Bringing The Light Into the World~