

**Easter Festival**  
**April 4, 2010 10:00 a.m.**

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*Our mission is to change people's lives  
through a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

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**~WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE~**

**Greeting of Peace**

**Prelude**

*"Morning Has Broken"*  
*Soloist - Shannon Wheeler with the Liturgical Dancers*  
**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

**Call to Worship**

**L:** There are alleluias in the air, that skip a beat as they dance over tombs, that push at stones and reveal a savior, that explode with a slow beauty in the sunrise, that wake the birds and tear at the dawn.

**P:** *It is God's special word: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**L:** There are alleluias in the air, that are filled with the voice of God, that are spoken aloud all over the world, that break open hope for the poor, that paint faith with the color of rainbows.

**P:** *It is God's special word: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**L:** There are alleluias in the air, that fill silence with song, that fill fear with hope, that fill injustice with compassion, that fill worn out things with new life.

**All:** *It is God's special word: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**L:** Let us worship amidst the alleluias!

**Hymn** *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"* **#302**

**Opening Prayer**

Our eyes are barely open, the sky has hardly brightened, the morning has just begun, and we see you have already done a new thing. Praise be to you, O God. Your ways are beyond our understanding, your mystery is too vast for words, yet on this day we dare to believe that you are making us into new creations. Alleluia! Amen!

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

**Offertory** *"Lord, I Lift Your Name On High"* **#2088**

**Doxology** **#95**

**Offertory Prayer**

Thank you, God, for the resurrection. We rejoice in Christ as the first fruits of all that you make available to us. As you offered Christ to the world, so we would offer ourselves. May we, along with our gifts, testify to the good news of your forgiving love and empowering acceptance. Amen.

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

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

**Anthem** *"Celebrate Jesus"* *arr: Lloyd Larson*

**Reading of the Word**  
**Gospel** *John 20: 1-18*

**Hymn** *"Easter People, Raise Your Voices"* **#304**

**The Message** *Rev. Michele Ewers*

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

**A Time for Prayer**

**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**                      *“He Is Exalted”*                      **#2070**

**Commission and Blessing**

- L:**     Spread the message: Christ is alive!  
         Live the good news: our lives are renewed.
- P:**     ***We have seen and heard the good news.***  
         ***We have been touched by the presence of Christ.***
- L:**     Share the Word: God’s peace is offered to all.  
         Communicate the power of love: be transformed.
- P:**     ***We are saved, reconciled and empowered.***  
         ***God has chosen us to make all things new.***
- L:**     Announce and proclaim: God is our strength.  
         Rejoice in the promise: we shall triumph over death.
- P:**     ***We will tell friends what we have discovered.***  
         ***Let us glorify Jesus in our hearts and lives.***

**Closing Song**              *“He Has Made Me Glad”*                      **#2270**

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

***Liturgical Dance Ministry***  
*Tanya Ethier*  
*Danielle Mazzone*  
*Bridget Murphy, Choreographer*  
*Ingrid Murphy*  
*Arielle Wilson*  
*Danielle Wilson, Director*

*Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, are from Seasons of the Spirit;  
Offertory Prayer and Sending Forth are from the book Gathered by love  
by Lavon Bayler*

*Other Lectionary Readings for Easter Sunday are:  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 24: 1-12*