

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2010 10:00AM**

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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

Opening Song *"There's a Song"* **#2141**

Lighting of the Altar Candle

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Child: Dear God, today I light a candle for joy in our world.
May it burn brightly and warmly in our hearts.*

L:: Enflamed by your empowering love, we gather, O God, willing
to be stilled, yet willing to be moved.

All: *We come, so our lives might continue to be enlarged by you
through a greater fullness, kindness, and joy for living.*

Hymn *"Light the Advent Candle"* **#2090, vs.3**

Prayer of Confession

L: Holy Spirit, whose shadowed presence extends fully into our
midst, we hold tenderly the promise of something more,
something beyond what we can see with our eyes or touch with
our hands, or even make real with our efforts alone.

P: *We yearn for the seeds of peace, justice, and goodness to
bloom in the desert places of the world and we wait with eager
longing for that time.*

All: *Inspire us in this time of holding, give us renewed passion
for our work, and may we rejoice even as we wait.*
(Silent Prayer of Confession)

Words of Assurance

Help us to be patient. As the farmer must wait for the seed to
break open in the dark soil, push through the fertile ground, and produce
its promised harvest, so, too, must we wait for the promises of our faith
to be revealed. As we wait and work with God, may we sing joyfully
with Mary and all the prophets, holding fast to the hope within us.
Thanks be to God. Amen

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church

A Time for the Child in All of Us *Bev Wheeler*
(Children may be dismissed for Sunday School)

Offertory *"Litany"* *by Rev. Carey Landry*

Doxology **#95**

Offertory Prayer

Our spirits rejoice and give praise for the goodness revealed in
our midst. We are grateful for the presence of this community, for the
sustenance of the Earth, for hands that care and hearts that love. We
pause to reflect on the richness within and around us this day. In a spirit
of joy and gratitude may we become greater reflections of God's
goodness in our world. Amen.

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~

Anthem *"Sing For Joy"* *by Lamont Hiebert*

Reading of the Word

Hebrew Scripture *Isaiah 35: 1-10*
Gospel *Matthew 1: 18-25*

Hymn *"Halle, Halle, Halleluja"* **#2026**

Message *Mike Sherry*

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~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~

A Time for Prayer *Barbara Fortin*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father who are 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 *“God Is So Good”* **#2056**

Sending Forth

L: May each life make large the Spirit of God and may you know the fullness of God’s favor resting upon you as you leave this place. For see, God is turning the world upside down; the plans of the self-important will come to an end and the way of vulnerability will lead to life.

All: *The Mighty One is doing good things in and through us. Let us go and give birth to the justice and love that has been planted within each of us by the Spirit of God. Amen*

Closing Song *“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”* **#2088**

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~BRINGING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD~

Advent Candle lighting, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance
Offertory Prayer and Sending Forth are from:
Seasons of the Spirit