

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2010 10:00AM**

**Blackstone Valley
United Methodist Church**

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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

Lighting of the Altar Candle

Opening Song

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#240

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Child: *Dear God, today I light a candle for love in our world.*

May it burn brightly and warmly in our hearts.

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

P: *We come, so our lives might continue to be enlarged by you in greater fullness, kindness, and joy for the living.*

Hymn

"Light the Advent Candle"

#2090, vs. 4

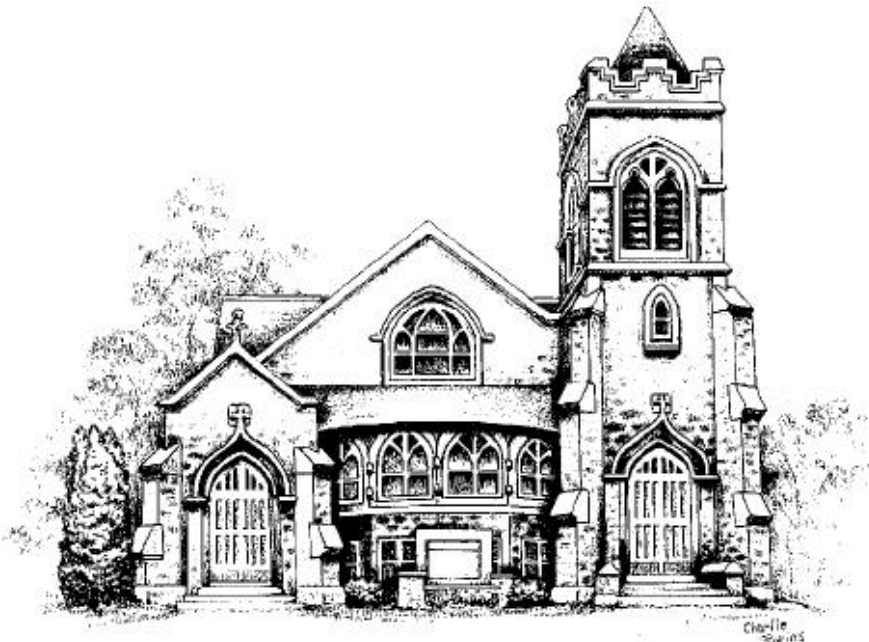
Prayer of Confession

O God, you have called us to be apostles of your grace, but we have been judgmental instead of gracious. We condemn in others what is also, all too often, in us. We refuse to listen to others' pain or to understand the source of their tears. We avoid those who are angry or scornful or embittered. It is easier to dismiss the feelings of others than to offer true empathy. We would rather reject than encounter them. Yet you come to us, Emmanuel, and we want to repent. You reach out to us, and our hearts melt. We want to embrace this new life. Amen.

(Silent Reflection)

Words of Assurance

God's promises are fulfilled. We awaken from the nightmare of our neglect to a vision of what may yet be. We arise from our preoccupation with immediate problems to catch the larger vision and purpose God sets before us. Jesus is coming to save us from our sins. Emmanuel is God with us.



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