Blackstone Valley
United Methodist Church

61 Linwood Avenue
Whitinsville, MA 01588
508-234-2275

Third Sunday After Pentecost
July 3, 2011 10:00 AM

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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 *"Come! Come! Everybody Worship"* **#2271**

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

L: We enter worship through doors that have been opened for us:
P: ***opened by God's grace that welcomes all,***
L: opened by a community that welcomes everyone.
All: ***Let us open the doors of our minds and spirits to the Sacred Presence. Let us open the doors of our faith community to all who enter. Let us open the doors to our hearts to each other and to all of God's creation.***

Hymn *"Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing"* **#400**

Opening Prayer

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you and the anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. Open our hearts to receive all that you offer. Amen.

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church

Offertory *"Give Thanks"* **#2036**

Doxology **#95**

Offertory Prayer

We give thanks for all whose courage has passed life and faith to us. We lift up all who trust you, O God, in spite of ruthless oppression. We offer ourselves with our gifts, that justice and truth may prevail throughout your world. Amen.

(Children may be dismissed for Summer Sunday School)

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~

Anthem *"The Lord's Prayer" Soloist, Mark Gentry*
arr: Albert Hay Malotte

Reading of the Word
Gospel *Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30*

Message *Rev. Michele Ewers*

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~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~

Celebration of the Sacrament

Invitation **Pg 12**

Prayer of Confession

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go out of our way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to find our way back to you. Help us to make you the center of our lives. Amen.

(Silent prayer of Confession.)

Words Assurance
The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread & Cup

"Come to the Table of Grace" **#3168**

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~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~

Hymn *"Come Away With Me"* **#2202**

Sending Forth

L: We encounter God in unexpected places. God surprises us in the life and witness of people we meet every day.

P: ***We learn from the youngest in our midst. Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.***

L: Let us take Christ's yoke upon us, for that yoke is easy. It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

All: ***We will find rest and renewal through Christ, and we will seek to express the same humility and gentleness to all we meet. Amen***

Closing Song *"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"* **# 526**

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Bringing The Light Into the World

Call To Worship: from *Seasons of the Spirit*
Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer, Prayer of Confession and Sending Forth:
from *Taught by Love* by Lavon Bayler

Other Lectionary readings
Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45: 10-17
Romans 7: 15-25a