

Blackstone Valley
United Methodist Church

Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 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

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Opening Song

"Arise, Shine"

#2005

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Bev Wheeler,

Nathaniel Beauchaine, Ben Wheeler

Reader 1: Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus. It is a season that reminds us to look for where God's way of love is present in our world today. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy.

Reader 2: We wait – not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because Jesus is not already and always here. We wait because to wait is to expect something more. To wait is to expect that the story might enter our hearts and our world in new ways, to bring the change for which we long.

(Light three Advent candles, including the pink one.)

Reader 3: As we light the candle of joy, we remember the stories of God's loyalty to all creation. We give thanks for the messengers – the apostles, prophets, artists, sages, faithful ones – present in every age, who bring us the good news of God's restoring love; and we shout with joy, trusting that God is with us and before us, and that joy will be born anew in us.

Hymn

"Joy Comes with the Dawn"

#2210

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church



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

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

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Offertory "Shout to the Lord" #2074

Doxology #95

Offertory Prayer

The prayers we offer, the gifts we give, are like seeds sown in trust that God's love will water these seeds and bring new life, hope, and joy to those who weep. Amen.

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~

Anthem "The Potters Hand" by Darlene Zschech

Reading of the Word

Psalter *Psalms 126* #847

Epistle *1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24*

Hymn "Like a Child" #2092

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~

Hymn "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" #2193

Sending Forth

L: God sends us as messengers of good news into the world,

P: *to plant seeds of life that brings joy in abundance to a world in need.*

L: God, the Creator of all life, goes with us.

All: *God, the Redeemer, the Sustainer of all life, goes with us into the word. Amen.*

Closing Song "Trading My Sorrows" #3108

Bringing the Light Into the World

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Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy, Offertory Prayer and Sending Forth:
from *Seasons of the Spirit Fusion*.

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

The Altar flowers are given in honor of Jordana Fetherolf and Christopher Lichtenhan, the children of Bonnie and Stephen Mochun and Anna and David Lichtenhan, who were married Saturday December 10th.