# Blackstone Valley
# United Methodist Church

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

**Epiphany Of The Lord**
**January 1, 2012 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** *"Angels From the Realm of Glory"* **#220**

**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

**Call to Worship**
L: Shining star, lead us on:
***P:*** ***We seek the way of peace.***
L: Spirit of hope, lead us on:
***P:*** ***We seek the way of joy.***
L: Bethlehem's cradle, lead us on:
***P:*** ***That our hearts may hold the way of love.***

**Hymn** *"We Three Kings"* **#254**

**Opening Prayer**
Interrupt our lives, O God, with stars we cannot refuse to see. Set before us today those life-changing possibilities which will send us on better paths than we have ever known. Go with us as we explore the mysteries of Christ. Fill us with awe and wonder, with joy and confidence, with generosity and praise. Reveal to us in new ways the promises of the gospel, so that we may be bold enough to proclaim the good news by the way we live. Amen.

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

*(Children are dismissed for Sunday School)*

**Offertory** *"Mary's Little Boy Child"* *by J. Hairston*

**Doxology** **#95**

**Offertory Prayer**

God of light and love, we thank you for taking us on this journey into the story of the star. We offer to you these prayers, our responses to the story, and these gifts of money and ourselves. May they shine the light of your love in the world. Amen.

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

**Anthem** *"Sing Mary Sing"* *by Jennifer Knapp*

**Reading of the Word**

**Hebrew Scripture** *Isaiah 60: 1-6*
**Gospel** *Matthew 2: 1-12*

**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 of all people, we cry out to you from the prisons of our own self concern. We have sought to create you in our own image, to serve people like us. We shrink from your righteousness and justice. We participate in acts of oppression and violence, sometimes actively, often through neglect. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us out of the shadows. Help us to hear your prophets, to see the signs of your activity among us, to feel the pain of brothers and sisters who need our compassion, not judgment. Amen.

*Silent Confession*

**Words of Assurance**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Sharing the Bread & Cup**

*"Sing Alleluia To The Lord"* **#2258**

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## *~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~*

**Hymn** *"Love Came Down"* **#3059**

**Sending Forth**

L: Go now and shine.
***P:*** ***There is light within each one of us, for the Divine light shines brightly: on, in, and through us.***
***All:*** ***As we go from this place, may the light of the Christ child guide our every step and every encounter with God's earth and God's people. Amen.***

**Closing Song** *"Joy to The World"* **#246**

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**Bringing the Light Into the World**

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

Lectionary Readings
*Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14*
*Ephesians 3: 1-12*