

SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

November 17, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Prelude *His Eye Is On the Sparrow*
Music by Charles H. Gabriel
Arranged by Mark Hayes-GlorySound © 1998

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

To the fisherman Jesus said:

“Follow me and I will make you fish for people.

To the tax collector Jesus said:

“Follow me.”

To the rich man Jesus said:

**“Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven;
then come, follow me.”**

At the last supper Jesus said:

“Follow me.”

To you and to me and to all of us Jesus says:

Follow me!

*Opening Song *There’s No One in This World Like Jesus* W&S 3036

Congregational Prayer

**Life-giving God, we gather in Your presence to offer You thanksgiving and praise for all
that You have done for us. Through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus
Christ, we have been set free—**

**free from the power of sin that leads to death,
free to follow the leading of Your Holy Spirit,
free to love You with all our heart and soul and strength,
free to worship!**

**May Your Holy Spirit inspire our praise and our prayers. Open our hearts and minds to
Your presence among us and within us, and to the Word You have for us today. To You
alone, life-giving God, belongs all praise and honor and glory and blessing, now and to
the end of time. For we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:**

The Lord’s Prayer Ian Good

Bell Anthem *Recollection* by Timothy Waugh, Choristers Guild, ©2016
Julia Juan on violin

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture *Luke 9:57-62*

*57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you
go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son
of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” 59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord,
first let me go and bury my father.” 60 And Jesus^[a] said to him, “Let the dead bury their own
dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” 61 Another said, “I will follow
you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” 62 And Jesus said to him, “No
one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

Anthem *Every Good Gift* Music by James M. Stevens
Words by J. Paul Williams - GlorySound © 2007

The Message *Two Steps Forward, None Back*

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of our Gifts and our Prayers

Presentation of Our Commitments of Time and Talent

*Closing Song *The Summons* FWS 2130

*Sending Forth

Postlude *Standing On the Promises* by R. Kelso Carter
Arranged by Darrell V. Archer
Mel Bay Publications, Inc. © 1984

***Stand if able**

WELCOME TO ALL

Who hope for a better world
& all who have lost hope:
Believers and seekers
Conventional Christians & questioning skeptics
Women, men, youth and children
Of all sexual orientations & gender identities
Of all races and cultures,
Of all income levels
Of all social classes
Of all physical & mental abilities.

COME AS YOU ARE . . .

YOU ARE WELCOME!

SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Ministry Team

MINISTERS.....Every member of Sparta UMC
PASTOR..... Rev. Dr. Steven Bechtold
PASTOR EMERITUS..... Rev. Dr. Alden Welch
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Karen Shaw
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES Bonnie Pomeroy
SEXTON Eleanor Shumaker

WEBSITE: www.spartaumc.org

There's No One in This World Like Jesus

Words: Traditional Shona, Zimbabwe; English trans. by Patrick Matsikenyiri and Daniel Charles Damon;

Music: Traditional Shona, Zimbabwe; English trans. by Patrick Matsikenyiri

The Summons

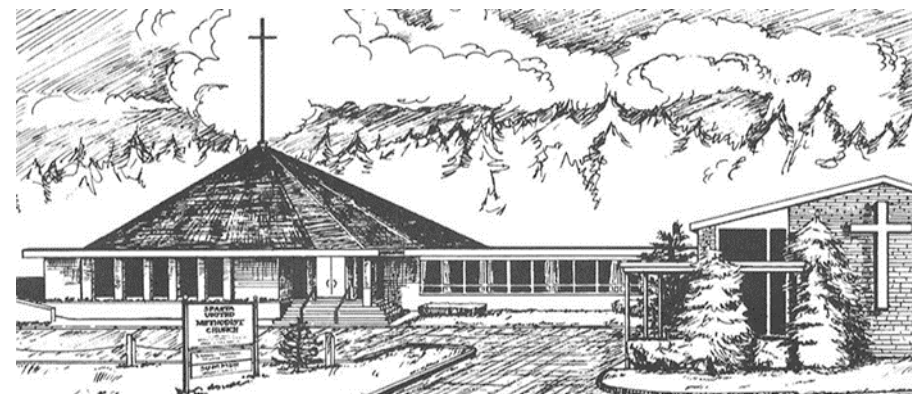
Words: John Bell; Music: Traditional Scottish

All Songs - One License A-719583

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SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



November 17, 2024
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

71 Sparta Avenue
Sparta, New Jersey 07871

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors:
Not Just a Tagline: This IS who we are