

PRELUDE

Bring Your Torch, Jeanette, Isabella
French Traditional
Arranged by Daniel Kelley;
Last Resort Music, Inc. © 1998

BELL TREE

Away in a Manger

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Joy

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 1:49-55, adapted

*The Mighty One has done great things
for me, and holy is his name; Indeed,,
God's mercy is for those who are in
awe of the Lord from generation to
generation.*

***God has shown strength, scattered the
proud in the imagination of their
hearts, and has brought down the
powerful from their thrones, and lifted
up the lowly;***

*God has filled the hungry with good
things and sent the rich away empty,
coming to the aid the child Israel,
In remembrance of the Lord's mercy,
according to the promises made to our
ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah and
to their descendants forever.*

OPENING SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High
UMH 238

A TIME OF PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1: 39-47

*In those days Mary set out and went
with haste to a Judean town in the hill
country, where she entered the house of
Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the child leaped in her womb. And
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed
are you among women, and blessed is
the fruit of your womb.*

*And why has this happened to me, that
the mother of my Lord comes to me?
For as soon as I heard the sound of
your greeting, the child in my womb
leaped for joy.*

*And blessed is she who believed that
there would be a fulfillment of what
was spoken to her by the Lord."
And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the
Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my
Savior,*

THE MESSAGE

The Signs are There

CELEBRATING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and
praise.***

*It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
Always and everywhere to give thanks*

*to you . . . And so, with your people on
earth, and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:*

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might.***

***Heaven and earth are full of your
glory. Hosanna in the highest!***

Blessed is the One who comes

In the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

*Holy are you, and blessed is your Son,
Jesus Christ As we proclaim the
mystery of faith:*

Christ has died; Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

*Pour out your Holy Spirit ...All honor
and glory is yours, almighty God, now
and forever.*

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

CLOSING SONG

Go Tell it on the Mountain
UMH 251

SENDING FORTH

BELL TREE

Away in a Manger

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High
Traditional

Arranged by Daniel Kelley; Last Resort
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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!

Angels We Have Heard on High

Words: Trad. French carol; trans. *Crown of Jesus*,
1862; Music: French carol melody; arr. by Edward
Shippen Barnes, 1937; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace,
1964

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Words: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by John W.
Work, Jr., 1907; Music: Afro-American spiritual;
adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986

All Songs - One License A-719583

Sparta United Methodist Church

71 Sparta Avenue
Sparta, New Jersey
www.spartaumc.org



*Service of Worship with
Holy Communion*

Sunday, December 22, 2024

8:45 AM