

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

January 19, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Prelude *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Music by George N. Allen
Arranged by Mark Hayes - GlorySound © 1998
This was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s favorite hymn. It was sung at many of his rallies as well as his funeral.

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters:

Here, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.

Here, in this time, we can remember all the ways God has graced us:

Here, in these moments, we are reminded that God is with us, always!

Here are gathered those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown:

Here, in this faith space, we will find the courage to cry out, 'God, save us!' in every situation.

*Opening Song *I Was There to Here Your Borning Cry* FWS 2051

Congregational Prayer

God of hope, we come to you in the midst of a world fraught with troubles. Although the darkness is powerful, open our eyes, Lord, to the light of your presence. Forgive us when we focus on the things that divide rather than united, giving us faith to stand against the voices of division and violence. Through your Spirit remake us into hope-filled disciples, discovering lives attuned to your wonder, and sparking in others a desire to know you more. For we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Anthem *Draw the Circle Wide* Music by Mark A. Miller
Words by Gordon Light - Abingdon Press © 2008

Soloists: Steve Magnotta and Emma Kimble

A Time for Young Disciples

Reading of the Scriptures

Exodus 2: 1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river; while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Response to the Scriptures

Wade in the Water
Chorus Only

FWS 2107

The Message

Set Aside for Greater Things

This Week in the Life of the Church

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Prayers

*Closing Song

You are the Seed
Verses 1 and 3

UMH 583

*Sending Forth

Postlude

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Traditional American Spiritual
Arranged by Mark Hayes - Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2021

*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

I Was There to Here Your Borning Cry

Words & Music: John Ylvisaker

Wade in the Water

Words: African American spiritual; Music: African American spiritual, arr. by Carl Haywood

You are the Seed

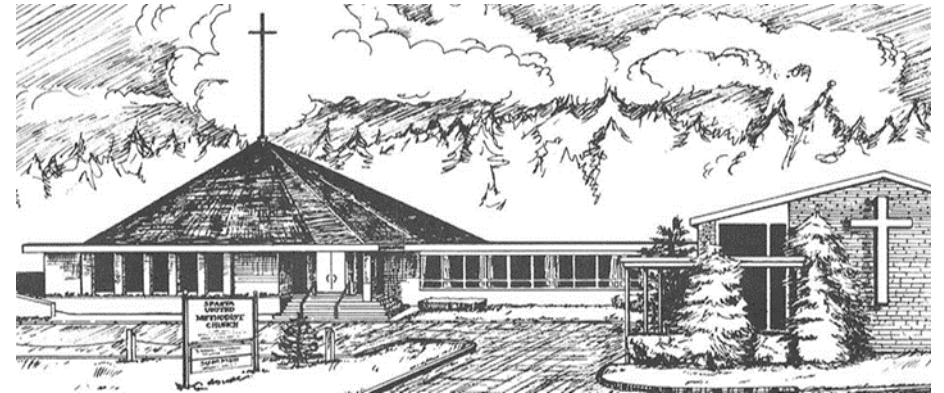
Words: Cesareo Gabarain, 1979, trans. by Raquel Cutierrez-Achon and Skinner Chavez-Melo; Music: Cesareo Gabarain, 1979; harm. by Skinner Chavez-Melo, 1987

All Songs - One License A-719583

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SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



January 19, 2025
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