

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

February 23, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Prelude *Ich glaub an Gott (To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King)*
Setting by Bob Moore; Birnamwood Publications © 2019

Oboe: Karen Cavaliere

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

God was with the people of Israel when they left Egypt.

God is with us now.

God gave the people hope as they traveled through the desert.

God gives us the courage to step out in faith.

God is with us as we look to the future.

Come, let us trust in God, for God is our strength.

Opening Song *God is Here Today* FWS 2049

Congregational Prayer

Holy God, your power fills the universe with light and love. Your tender hand caresses those who are suffering and wounded. You welcome strangers and care for the lonely. We are awed by the amazing extent of your compassion. Meet us where we are. Speak to us in ways that we understand. Come to us, O God, in our time of worship. Still our hearts and minds. Renew our spirits and fill us with the life that only you can offer. For we pray in the name of Jesus, the giver of abundant life, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Bell Anthem *Morning Light*
arr. by Stephanie Berryman; Classicool Music, @2016

Song of Preparation *This is Where Children Belong* FWS 2233

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, ² he said to them, "I am now one hundred twenty years old. I am no longer able to get about, and the Lord has told me, 'You shall not cross over this Jordan.' ³ The Lord your God himself will cross over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua also will cross over before you, as the Lord promised. ⁴ The Lord will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. ⁵ The Lord will give them over to you, and you shall deal with them in full accord with the command that I have given to you. ⁶ Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you."

⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and bold, for you are the one who will go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their ancestors to give them, and you will put them in possession of it. ⁸ It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

Anthem *Family of Light* Words & Music by Tina English
Arranged by Jay Rouse; Candelaworks Music © 2015

Oboe: Karen Cavaliere

The Message *Passing on the Legacy*

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Gifts and Our Prayers

*Closing Song *Shalom to You* UMH 666

*Sending Forth

Postlude *Hyfrydol (Love Divine, All Loves Excelling)*
Music by Rowland Hugh Prichard, written in 1830
Text by Charles Wesley; Setting by Bob Moore, Birnamwood Publications © 2019

Oboe: Karen Cavaliere

*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

God is Here Today

Words & Music: Trad. Mexican; trans. by C. Michael Hawn and Arturo Gonzalez

This is Where Children Belong

Words & Music: James Ritchie

Shalom to You

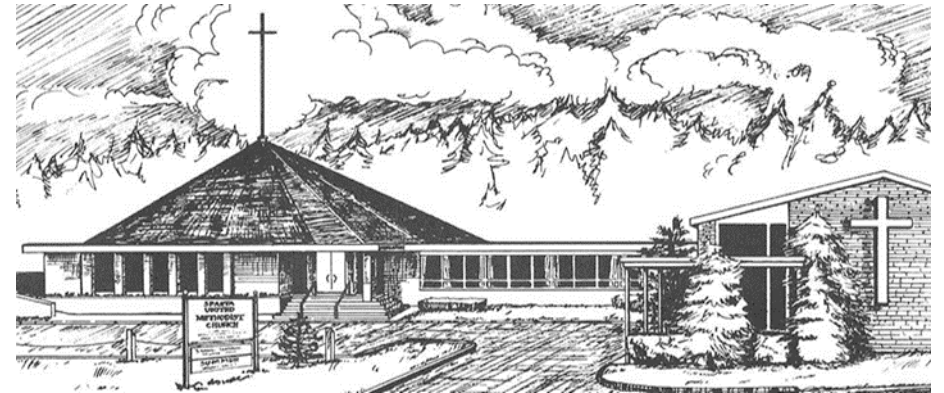
Words: Elise S. Eslinger, 1980; Music: Anon.; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1989

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SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



February 23, 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