

PRELUDE

People Need the Lord
Words & Music by Greg Nelson
and Phill McHugh
Arranged by Bill Wolaver
River Oaks Music Co.
Shepherd's Fold Music © 1986

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 63: 1-9

O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips, when I think of you on my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night,

For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

OPENING SONG

Jesus Be Praised
FWS 2079

A TIME OF PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13: 1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem?" ⁵ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

THE MESSAGE

The Fruits of Repentance

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

God Forth for God
UMH 670

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

This Little Light of Mine

Music attributed to

Harry Dixon Loes

Arranged by Mark Hayes

Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2011

Jesus Be Praised

Words & Music: Handt Hanson

God Forth for God

Words: John R. Peacey, 1975;

Music: *Genevan Psalter*, 1961; harm. by C. Winfred
Douglas, 1940, alt.

All Songs - One License A-719583

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 . . .

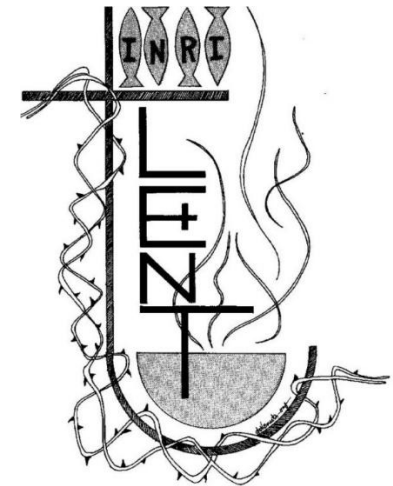
YOU ARE WELCOME!

Sparta United Methodist Church

71 Sparta Avenue

Sparta, New Jersey

www.spartaumc.org



*Service of Worship with
Holy Communion*

Sunday, March 23, 2025

8:45 AM