

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

March 17, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Prelude *Be Thou My Vision* Traditional Irish Melody
Arranged by Melody Bober
Alfred Music © 2008

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

This is the fifth step on our Lenten journey, a step of sacrificial giving

Be with us, Lord, as we take this step.

This requires the willingness to give all of your life to the Lord.

Be with us, Lord, as we commit our lives to you.

Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God.

Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day.

*Opening Song *Here I Am to Worship* W&S 3177

Congregational Prayer

In the quiet of this moment, in the stillness of this place, draw near to us, O God. As we seek the shelter of your refuge, as we celebrate the bounty of your provision, hear our prayers, Holy God. Transform this time and place into our land of milk and honey: a land where you are among us, a land where your mighty hand and your outstretched arm protect us, a land where you alone are the focus of our worship and service. For we ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Anthem *Every Day My Savior Leads Me*
Words & Music by Jay Althouse
Inspired by a text by Fanny Crosby
Hope Publishing Co. © 2006

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Lesson

John 12: 1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them^[a] with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it^[b] so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Message *Onward to Bethany*

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Gifts and Our Prayers

*Closing Song *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* UMH 581

Sending Forth

Postlude *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
Traditional American Melody
Arranged by Bernadine Johnson
Alfred Music © 2019

Thoughts and Prayers

Prayers for: Landy Breeden and family, and Sally's sister, Corinne

Continued prayers for: Tammy and Mike Vrabel and family for their granddaughter Izabella Vrabel, Susan Foy, recovering from cancer, Abbie Wright (Jane Smith's great granddaughter). She is 11 years old and was just diagnosed with leukemia, Ann Freeman Price, Norma Joseph, Terri, Chanele Spivak, Jill Kubin, Linda Donelson (friend of Ruth Kelley's), Edith VanHousen, Anthony Hutchison, Kelly Stites, Alba Haas, Diane Cironi, Judy Remo, Arnie Koriakin, Sue Gibson, Sharon Gordon, Karen Sutphen, Lester Hemphill, Rich Kelley, Linda Giammanco, Brenda Losey.

Healing for, Bev DeYoung, Pat and Sandy DeYoung's sister-in-law

***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
SEMINARY INTERN Shan Gao
SEXTON Eleanor Shumaker

WEBSITE: www.spartaumc.org

Here I Am to Worship, Words & Music: Tim Hughes
Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service, Words: Albert F. Bayly, 1961, alt.; Music: Attr. to B.F. White, 1844; harm. by
Ronald A. Nelson, 1978
All Songs One License A-719583



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March 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