

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

January 12, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Prelude *Aurelia (The Church's One Foundation)*
by Samuel Sebastian Wesley -- Birnamwood Publications © 2019

Violin: Julia Juan

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

The heavens open. The Spirit descends. Jesus emerges from the water.
And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

"This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased."

In these words, Jesus is named. Claimed.

We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.

How blessed it is to be named. Claimed.

Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.

*Opening Song *When Jesus Came to Jordan* UMH 252

Congregational Prayer

Gracious God, in Jesus Christ, baptized by John in the Jordan, you came to share our life and deliver us from sin and death. As we are baptized with water, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us. We need the life and grace that you alone can give. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Holy Spirit so that we may live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Anthem *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*
by Michael Helman -- Text by F. Bland Tucker
Augsburg Fortress © 2001

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading *Matthew 3: 13-17*

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Message *Beloved*

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Gifts and Our Prayers

*Closing Song *Your Grace is Enough* W & S 3106

*Sending Forth

Postlude *Grosser Gott, wir loben dich*
(Holy God, We Praise Thy Name) Setting by Bob Moore
Birnamwood Publications © 2019

Violin: Julia Juan

*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

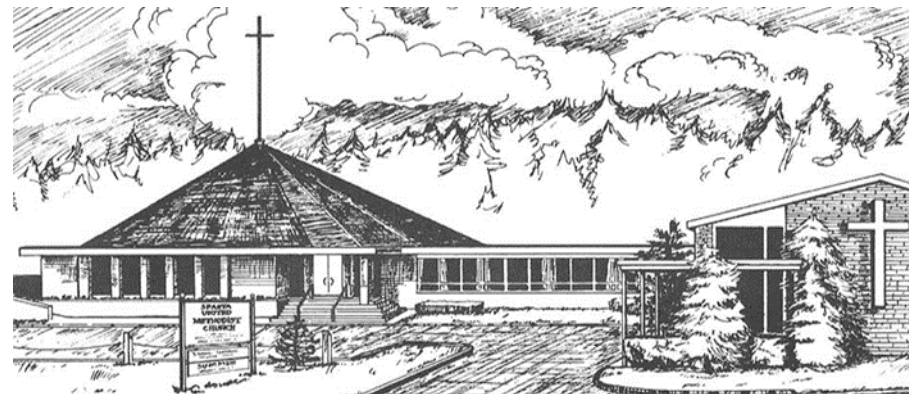
When Jesus Came to Jordan
Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1973; Music: Attr. to William Walker, 1835; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988
Your Grace is Enough
Words & Music: Matt Maher

All Songs - One License A-719583

For your convenience, you may scan the QR Code to reach the Sparta UMC On-line Giving Platform through Vanco.



SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



January 12, 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