

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

April 27, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

Words by Joseph M. Scriven; Music by Charles C. Converse

Arranged by Melody Bober; Alfred Music © 2008

Words of Welcome

\*Call to Worship

How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God’s love!  
**We are called to be Easter people!**  
Darkness cannot claim us!  
**Fear cannot bind us!**  
Christ is alive  
**The living Christ is among us. Hallelujah!**

\*Opening Song

Christ Has Risen

FWS 2115

Opening Prayer

**This is the day that you have made, life-giving God. Joining with angels and archangels and with the chorus that is rising throughout all the earth, we will rejoice and be glad this day. You take our endings and you make your new beginnings. Your surprise and astound us in places where we expected that you were absent. You challenge us to reconsider what is possible. Living Lord, we praise you for you are raised by the power of God and there is a new creation and, by your grace, we are welcomed in it! Hear our prayer in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:**

The Lord’s Prayer

Ian Good

Solo

Hosanna

Adam Jacob

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading

John 21: 4-14

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Anthem

O Come, Let Us Sing!

Music by Earlene Rentz

Text: Psalm 95: 1, 2; Zephaniah 3:17

Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2006

The Message

Recognizing Greatness

This Week in the Life of the Church

Mission Moment

Suzanne Sarner

Director of The Student Center at Sussex County Technical School

The Offering of our Gifts and Our Prayers

\*Closing Song

Give Me Jesus

W & S 3140

\*Sending Forth

Postlude

I Must Tell Jesus

by Elisha A. Hoffman

Arranged by Larry Shackley; Alfred Music Publishing Co. © 2004

\*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](http://www.spartaumc.org)

*Christ Has Risen*

Words: John Bell; Music: William Moore

*Give Me Jesus*

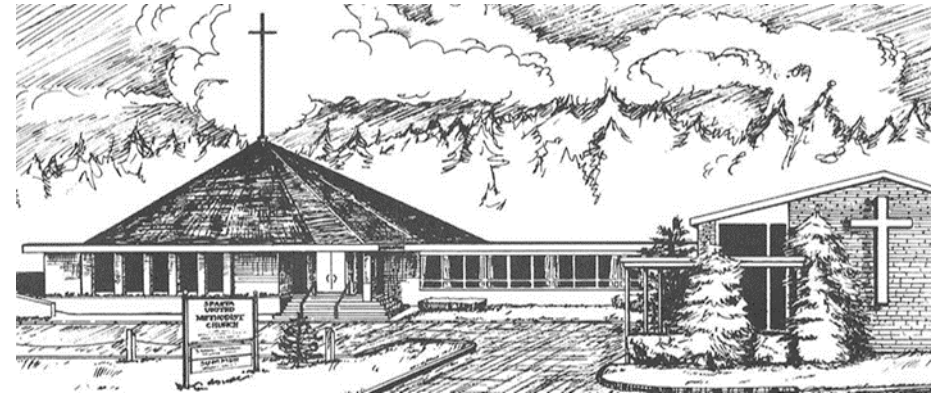
Words: African American spiritual  
Music: African American spiritual; harm. by Verolga Nix

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



April 27, 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**