

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  
*Psalm 150 (adapted)*

*Praise God in the sanctuary; praise  
God in the mighty firmament!  
Praise God for mighty deeds;  
according to God's surpassing  
greatness!*  
***Praise God with trumpet sound; with  
lute and harp!***  
***With tambourine and dance, with  
strings and pipe!***  
***Praise God with loud clashing  
cymbals!***  
*Let everything that breathes praise the  
LORD!*  
***Praise the LORD!***

OPENING SONG  
*Christ is Alive*  
UMH 318

A TIME OF PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING  
*John 20:19-31*

<sup>19</sup> *When it was evening on that day, the  
first day of the week, and the doors  
were locked where the disciples were,*

*for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and  
stood among them and said, "Peace be  
with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he  
showed them his hands and his side.  
Then the disciples rejoiced when they  
saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them  
again, "Peace be with you. As the  
Father has sent me, so I send  
you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he  
breathed on them and said to them,  
"Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you  
forgive the sins of any, they are  
forgiven them; if you retain the sins of  
any, they are retained."*

<sup>24</sup> *But Thomas (who was called the  
Twin), one of the twelve, was not with  
them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other  
disciples told him, "We have seen the  
Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I  
see the mark of the nails in his hands  
and put my finger in the mark of the  
nails and my hand in his side, I will not  
believe."*

<sup>26</sup> *A week later his disciples were again  
in the house, and Thomas was with  
them. Although the doors were shut,  
Jesus came and stood among them and  
said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he  
said to Thomas, "Put your finger here  
and see my hands. Reach out your hand  
and put it in my side. Do not doubt but  
believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him,  
"My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said  
to him, "Have you believed because  
you have seen me? Blessed are those  
who have not seen and yet have come  
to believe."*

<sup>30</sup> *Now Jesus did many other signs in  
the presence of his disciples that are*

*not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are  
written so that you may continue to  
believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the  
Son of God, and that through believing  
you may have life in his name.*

THE MESSAGE  
*Abundant Evidence*

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

*He Lives*

*UMH 310*

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

*I Must Tell Jesus*

by Elisha A. Hoffman

Arranged by Larry Shackley

Alfred Music Publishing Co. © 2004

*Christ is Alive*

Words: Brian Wren, 1968, alt.

Music: *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

*He Lives*

Words & Music: Alfred H. Ackley, 1933

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## 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](http://www.spartaumc.org)



*Service of Worship with  
Holy Communion*

*Sunday, April 27, 2025*

*8:45 AM*