

PRELUDE

*Nearer, My God, to Thee*  
by Lowell Mason  
arranged by Peter Hilliard;  
Peter Hilliard © 2022  
**Violin: Julia Juan**

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP  
*Psalms 103 (adapted)*

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all  
that is within me, bless God's holy  
name.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do  
not forget all God's benefits:  
Forgiveness of all iniquity, healing all  
diseases, redeeming your life from  
the Pit, who crowns you with  
steadfast love and mercy,**  
God, who satisfies you with good as  
long as you live so that your youth is  
renewed like the eagle's.  
**The LORD works vindication and  
justice for all who are oppressed.**  
The ways of God were made known to  
Moses, these acts to the people of  
Israel.  
**The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in  
steadfast love.**

OPENING SONG  
*Holy, Holy, Holy*  
UMH 64

A TIME OF PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

*Luke 13: 1-10*

<sup>10</sup> Now he was teaching in one of the  
synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just  
then there appeared a woman with a  
spirit that had crippled her for eighteen  
years. She was bent over and was quite  
unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When  
Jesus saw her, he called her over and  
said, "Woman, you are set free from  
your ailment." <sup>13</sup> When he laid his  
hands on her, immediately she stood up  
straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But  
the leader of the synagogue, indignant  
because Jesus had cured on the  
Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd,  
"There are six days on which work  
ought to be done; come on those days  
and be cured and not on the Sabbath  
day." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and  
said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of  
you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his  
donkey from the manger and lead it to  
water?" <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a  
daughter of Abraham whom Satan  
bound for eighteen long years, be set  
free from this bondage on the Sabbath  
day?" <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his  
opponents were put to shame, and the  
entire crowd was rejoicing at all the  
wonderful things being done by him.

THE MESSAGE  
*Free to Be*

CELEBRATING 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 of Love and God of Power*  
UMH 578

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

*Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln*

arranged by Peter Hilliard;

Peter Hilliard © 2022

**Violin: Julia Juan**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Words: Reginald Heber, 1826;

Music: John B. Dykes, 1861

*God of Love and God of Power*

Words: Gerald H. Kennedy, ca. 1939;

Music: Joachim Neander, 1680

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 . . .***

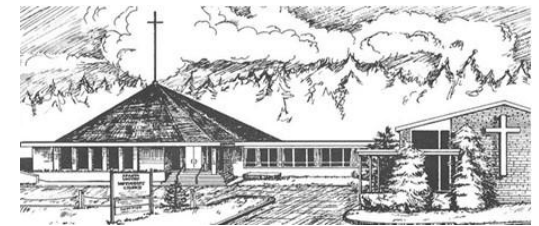
***YOU ARE WELCOME!***

***Sparta United Methodist Church***

71 Sparta Avenue

Sparta, New Jersey

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



*Service of Worship with  
Holy Communion*

*Sunday, August 24, 2025*

*8:45 AM*