

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

December 7, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

The Second Sunday in Advent

		*Stand if able
Prelude	<i>What Child Is This?</i>	Traditional Arranged by Jim Brickman Universal Tunes © 2006
Words of Welcome		
Bell Tree	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	
*Call to Worship		
Our souls magnify the Lord!		
Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!		
The mighty One has done great things for us!		
Holy is God's name!		
Let us worship God.		
For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from generation to generation, God gives mercy.		
*Opening Song	<i>Like a Child</i>	FWS 2092
Lighting of the Advent Wreath		
Congregational Prayer		
Gracious God, as we light the second candle of Advent, we give thanks for your gift of peace. In a world where conflict and fear often seem to hold sway, you speak a different word: a word of calm in the storm, of hope in the struggle, of wholeness in the midst of our brokenness. Shine your light upon us and within us, O Lord. Let this candle remind us that Christ is our Peace, the One who breaks down dividing walls, who stills anxious hearts, who guides our feet into the way of peace. Grant that your peace may take root in our lives. Make us instruments of your peace, willing to listen, to forgive, and eager to bear witness to the Prince of Peace who is coming among us. For your peace is our promise, our longing, and our joy. For we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:		
The Lord's Prayer		Ian Good
A Time for Young Disciples		
Anthem:	<i>Magnificat</i>	Luke 1: 46-55, adapted by R.E.S

by Ruth Elaine Schram

Augsburg Fortress © 2004

Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary^f said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Message

Singing with Surprising Joy

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Gifts and Our Prayers

The Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

The Great Thanksgiving and Consecration

The receiving of the bread and the cup.

*Closing Song

Blessed be the God of Israel

UMH 209

*Sending Forth

Bell Tree

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Postlude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Adapted from
Plainsong by Thomas Helmore
Arranged by John DeVries
Shawnee Press, Inc. © 2007

WELCOME TO ALL
COME AS YOU ARE . . . YOU ARE WELCOME!

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.

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Ministry Team

MINISTERSEvery member of Sparta UMC
PASTOR Rev. Dr. Steven Bechtold
PASTOR EMERITUS Rev. Dr. Alden Welch
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Sue Reynolds
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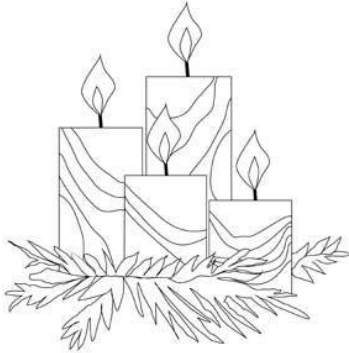
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ADVENT

December 7, 2025
10:30 A.M. Worship Service

71 Sparta Avenue
Sparta, New Jersey 07871
973-729-7773

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors:
Not Just a Tagline: This IS who we are