

**A Warm Welcome to
Solomon's United Church of Christ**

Sunday, October 8, 2023 10:15 am

Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

Church Website: mysolomonsucc.org

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION

GATHERING HYMN

“This is the Day” (v. 1)

Black # 84

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made!

We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it! And be glad in it!

This is the day that the Lord has made! We will rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made!

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 19)**

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

All: The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

One: The presence of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. Let us worship God!

All: May these words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“The God of Abraham Praise”

Black # 24

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: O God, our rock and redeemer, enlighten us today through the ancient witness of your faithful people. Lead us to desire the guidance of your word. Remind us of your ordinances that are true and righteous. May they shape our living and warn us when we are in error. We seek to honor your name, to divest ourselves of idols, to keep this day of rest and worship. Work with us to develop right relationships in our families and with all your children near and far, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: O God, we have strayed from the righteousness you set before us. We have bent and ignored your law. Your commandments inform us but do not transform. We give lip service to your law but seek to avoid its implication for our lives. We recognize some of our errors, but many are hidden from us. We devote our energies to accumulating possessions that function as idols in our lives. We depend on them more than we honor you. Save us, we pray, from great transgressions and help us to reorder our days. Through this confession, may we be open to your transforming presence. May your will and way be made abundantly clear as we rejoice in the free gift of your forgiveness and find ourselves reassured by your mercy. Thank you, O God. Praise be to you! Amen.

PRAISE HYMN

Black # 283

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

CHILDREN'S TIME

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

HYMN

“Be Now My Vision”

Black # 451

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:33-46

SERMON

PASTORAL PRAYER & OUR LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

***PRESENTATION & OFFERING RESPONSE**

Black # 785

We give you but your own

Whate'er the gift may be

All that we have is yours alone

We give it gratefully

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: Ruler of all space and time, we want to be faithful stewards in your vineyard. All that we have is yours. Our lives are in your hands. Help us to use well all that we here devote to the work of your church. Help us to manage well, to your honor and glory, all that we retain for ourselves. May we know heaven on earth because of our obedience to your word and service to your beloveds. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

Black # 290

***BENEDICTION**

One: May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit be with you and go with you always. Our Worship Service is ended,

All: May our service never end. Amen.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

**Please stand as you're comfortable*

Liturgies adapted from Taught By Love by Lavon Bayler