

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

Sunday, October 1, 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 25)**

One: To you, O Lord, let us lift up our hearts.

*All: O God, in you we trust. Make your ways known, O Lord; teach us your paths.*

One: Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long.

*All: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love. According to your love remember your children, O Lord!*

One: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore, God leads the humble in what is right.

*All: Turn and be gracious to us, O God, as we sing to you in praise and worship! Amen.*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

“What Wondrous Love Is this”

Black # 223

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*All: We marvel, O God, at the thought that you care about us. We are amazed that the Creator of the universe would take on human flesh to draw near to us in ways we could begin to understand.*

*As Jesus emptied himself to serve, modeling your love even in the face death, we seek in these moments to lay aside self-interest that we might take direction from you. Help us to humble ourselves in order to obey you, to listen in order to hear, to care in order to serve. Lead us day and night through the wilderness of our time. Lead us to honest and fervent worship. Amen.*

**MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE**

**ONE:** We find it challenging to approach you with our confession, holy God, for you may require changes in us that are costly. You ask us to have the mind of Christ, a mind free of pretense and self-interest. You challenge us to lay aside our advantages to go where you send us. We fear loss of security if we are obedient. It is hard to see ourselves as exploiters when we simply pursue advantages for our families. It is difficult to consider others when we feel like we are victims, too. We confess our need for you and our desire to find your purpose for us. Help us and forgive us, we pray. Change us and assure us. We are grateful for your everlasting and steadfast love, O God. 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**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

**EPISTLE READING**

Philippians 2:1-13

**HYMN**

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

Black # 23

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 21:23-32

**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.*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

(INSERT)

**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: We give, trusting you, O God. We give because you have richly blessed us. We present ourselves in your service because you have gifted us in so many ways. We reach out helping hands because we care about all those you have called us to love. May we share in that mind which so powerfully demonstrates your love. Amen.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

Black # 403

**\*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*