

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

Sunday, March 17, 2024 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**

One: New life rises!

All: *That which rises, must first fall and die.*

One: Single grains merely remain as they are unless they are released to the ground.

All: *The grains of the earth that fall will multiply and nourish.*

One: Come, die to the self and live a life of service to the Living God.

All: *And God will raise us up anew. Let us worship together! Amen.*

***OPENING HYMN**

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

Black # 7

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: *God of grains and grace, we gather today seeking to follow in the way of Jesus. The path he chose for his disciples was one of service and it requires of us that we lay down our desires, our ambitions, and serve you with our whole heart. May our worship this day inspire our dying and rising with you as we seek to love and serve like Jesus. May it be so. Amen.*

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: God of love, we confess that our egos can all too often get in the way of our ability to serve you and others with our lives. Our false self is driven by our lack of trust in you to provide for our every need. We rely on our own strength. But our true self can let go and be formed anew by your love. Forgive us our false ways, we pray. Transform us and raise us to new life. May we find assurance of your presence with us, O God. May we trust that we are forgiven, that new life rises, and that Jesus abides with us always. All glory and honor to you, Holy One! In the name of Christ, 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

HYMN

“I Am Yours, O Lord”

Black # 455

GOSPEL READING

John 12:20-33

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: *O God who causes our lives to rise, we lay down to you the abundance you have given us and allow it to fall so that you may multiply it to give life to your world. May it be so. Amen.*

***CLOSING HYMN**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Black # 506

***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 from UCC Worship Ways, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown