

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

Sunday, January 12, 2025 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: Come, beloved of God, to remember who you are and whose you are.

All: God in Christ, has named us all “Beloved.”

One: Here and now, God’s heaven of love is being poured out anew.

All: May this motion of the Holy One, shape our hearts and minds.

One: May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the whole creation.

All: And may it shape our words and work into good news for the world! Let us worship

God together! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

Black # 459

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Holy One, awaken us again to Your outpouring Spirit of Love. Through this generous gift, stretch our souls wide and form us into channels of your healing grace. Gift us with an ability to recognize You in each other, all imprinted with Your beloved blessing. Clarify our intentions, purify our actions, fill our words with grace and our hearts with hope. Soak our thinking, our praying, our hoping, our everything in You. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER and REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMS

As you pray, you are welcome to come forward and encounter the baptismal font as you feel led.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, our baptisms are public commitments to You and Your way. As we recommit ourselves once again to You, let us enter again Your baptismal river of grace. Let it soak every stain attached to the fabric of our lives and longings. O Holy One, submerge us in You and Your transformative mercy again and again and again. Cleanse every distracting impulse luring each of us away from You who are our hearts’ deepest desire. Let no urgency be more important than Your forgiving love, always transforming. Today, help us choose you above every temptation that lures us to worship lesser things. Forgive us, renew us, and grant the grace promised by You in Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

Isaiah 43:1-7

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 8:14-17

HYMN

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

Black # 290

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SERMON

PASTORAL PRAYER & OUR LORD’S PRAYER

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**

O Gracious God, we thank you for the invitation to grow through giving, made possible by Your outpouring spirit. May these gifts we bring be used to form ever-new blessings in this congregation and around the world. And may our lives be the instruments of love and joy you desire. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Black #547

***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 feel led and are comfortable
Liturgies from the UCC’s Worship Ways, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown*