

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

Sunday, January 21, 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 (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

All: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

All: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

All: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Creator God, Creating Still”

Black # 278

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: God of Many Seasons, we enter into your presence with joy and thanksgiving. We acknowledge all the ways that you meet us as we gather in your name. May our songs and prayers be a sweet sound in your ears. May we demonstrate our trust in you through praise, confession, and lament. May our hearts yearn, our spirits stir, and our souls wait in holy hope and expectation. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Holy One, we can be so impatient. We confess that we have become used to instant gratification and have forgotten the holiness of the waiting. We have not trusted you with our whole hearts. Help us to rest in your timing. Encourage us to persevere through struggles and storms. Reveal the unfolding of your kingdom before our eyes and empower us to be agents of transformation in the world as you infuse us with new life. While we wait, O God, help us to have grace to love fully, pursue liberty, and seek a just world. You have given us the blueprint and an invitation to the path of new life. Through your mercy, help us to follow Jesus with grace and in truth. We rejoice in your forgiveness. 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

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

HYMN

“Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult”

Black # 172

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:14-20

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(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: Eternal God, magnify these gifts that we return to you with gratitude. Use them for your glory. Help us to steward all that you have provided according to your will. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

Black # 448

***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*