

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

Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:15 am

Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

Church Website: [mysolomonsucc.org](http://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: Arise, shine; for your light has come. The glory of God has risen among us.

*All: We are awake; we are alive! Praise God for deliverance and blessings.*

One: Lift up your eyes to see all around you. Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.

*All: May justice water the earth like a shower; let righteousness and peace abound.*

One: Receive again the promises of the gospel. Participate in the mystery of Jesus Christ.

*All: God's ways are being revealed to us today. Our church proclaims the unsearchable riches of Christ. Let us worship God together! Amen.*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

“Arise, Your Light is Come”

Black # 164

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*Eternal God, because your purposes become clear to us in Jesus Christ, we come with boldness to claim our relationship with you. We are grateful for pioneers in the faith whose stewardship has salvaged for us a way of life rooted in the gospel. The flames you ignited in them have not gone out, in spite of our faithlessness. Your wisdom is still proclaimed in the church, challenging centers of earthly power with the claims of heaven. Today our search for meaning has led us to this place of worship. You are here; we rejoice! Amen.*

**MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*All: God of light, we admit our retreat into the shadows of pretension and exclusion. How often we choose to associate with people who are like us and then look down on others who differ from us. It is easier to discover their sins than to admit our own. We judge the poor and join their oppressors, while you call us to identify with those in need, that all may prosper together. We imagine that we alone are faithful stewards of your grace, while you welcome, as fellow saints with us, many whom we ignore. Save us from our earthbound judgements, that we may look up and be guided by the star that draws all people to You. Awed by your forgiving presence, we come to worship you. 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 60:1-6

**EPISTLE READING**

Ephesians 3:1-12

**HYMN**

“Brightest and Best”

Black # 157

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 2:1-12

**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: For the joy of giving, we offer the products of our labor for the ministry of this church, in outreach to the world. With concern for those who are poor, oppressed, and needy, we rededicate ourselves as helpers and advocates. Out of devotion to Christ, we commit our best, that the church may bear witness among the principalities and powers of this world. Help us all, O God, to be faithful stewards. Amen.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

“O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright”

Black #158

**\*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 adapted from Lavon Bayler's Gathered By Love, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown*

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

The Epiphany season celebrates God's inclusiveness. The mystery of Jesus Christ is revealed, not to an elite few, but to the whole world. Yet we continue to build barriers to protect our own interests and keep others at a distance. If loyalty to God calls for accepting and embracing all of God's children in love, we have much to confess.

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Through faith, we can come to Almighty God in boldness and confidence, assured of the gift of grace and empowerment of the Spirit. Lift up your eyes to see the glory of God. Receive light and healing, for God has come to dwell in us and among us. Let your hearts rejoice and your faces be radiant as we share the abundance of God's love.

### **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

We are stewards of God's grace, entrusted with the riches of Christ, channels through which the wisdom and love of God are offered to the world. Our prosperity gives us the marvelous opportunity to share. What treasures will we offer today to honor Jesus? What costly offerings will be given with joy and worshipful devotion?