

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

Sunday, January 7, 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: Come, join the search for all God will reveal.

All: God has sent light to dispel our fears. The glory of God has risen upon us.

One: The Gospel of Christ reveals God’s grace. We share in the promise of Jesus Christ.

All: We gather together and lift up our eyes. Our hearts rejoice!

One: The wisdom of God is made known as we meet each other where we are.

All: God’s love surrounds us. Boldly and confidently, we come before God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Black # 126

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: God beyond our knowing, grant us today new glimpses of who you are and what you intend for us to be. The powers of this earth bow before you in humble adoration. Mighty nations are tiny blips on the screens of your eternity. You enlist us to be a part of your eternal purposes. You draw us irresistibly toward the light. We seek your revelation. We desire the sense of purpose our faith in you instills in us. Come, Holy Mystery, to reveal as much of you as we can stretch to understand and receive into our lives. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: God of all people, we confess that we are often more impressed with earthly things than we are with your amazing glory. The rulers of this earth often feel more real to us than you who reigns over time and eternity. We often do not keep your priorities foremost in our lives. We reach for power and popularity more than for justice for the poor. We are more focused on prosperity than on relief for the oppressed. Ultimately, our pursuits do not satisfy; save us from their fragmenting grip in our lives. Cause a new epiphany among us, we pray. Deliver us from the oppressive greed to which we have succumbed. Forgiving God, we receive the showers of your blessings like rain! We rejoice for the presence of your peace within us! Help us to respond to your mercy with our own outpourings of grace and love and justice. Praise be to you, O Holy One! 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

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: Gracious God, we reach for the boundless riches of Christ, even as we give the tithes and offerings we have pledged. An abundance of things does not satisfy, and the wealth of nations cannot buy peace. Therefore, we join our efforts in the church to make a difference in the world through the power of love. Employ our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ, O God. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

Black # 164

***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 Led by Love by Lavon Baylor, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown