

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

Sunday, October 15, 2023 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** (Psalm 106, adapted by the Rev. Pérsida Rivera-Méndez)

One: Let's thank the Lord, for the Lord is good.

All: God's love endures forever.

One: Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare God's praise?

All: Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. Our God is worthy of our Praise!

One: Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people that we may enjoy your blessings.

All: Let us worship our good God, who blesses us with infinite love and abundant grace. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN**

“God Is Truly with Us”

Black # 68

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: Gracious God, you have invited and welcomed us to this place of worship. You draw us away from the idols we create to take your place. When we come together, we sense that there is nothing in life that can substitute for a vital relationship with you. Yet we are only dimly aware of who you are. All the mysteries of the universe are in your hands, yet you have made yourself known among the people of this earth. We catch glimpses of your work among us and are amazed. We want to meet you again today, as for the first time. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Merciful God, you have planted within us a desire to observe justice and do righteousness. We want to be fair and honorable, delighting in life shared openly and honestly with loved ones. Instead, we are often defensive, fearful, and distracted. We spend more time with our things than with your truth. We seek temporary thrills rather than lasting meaning. Then we are disappointed when our “golden calves” bring no fulfillment. We return to you, loving God, intent on following the guidance we receive from you. We rejoice knowing that you are near and that your mercy is abundant. 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

Exodus 32:1-14

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:1-9

HYMN

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Black # 506

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:1-14

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: May our offerings help to prepare many to feast at your banquet table, O God. May our generosity reflect the amazing abundance you entrust to our care. As we find joy in giving, may others be inspired to give their best, and may all of us realize your peace, dwelling within and among us as we serve in Christ's name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“As We Gather at Your Table”

Black # 332

***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 adapted from Taught By Love by Lavon Bayler