

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

Sunday, October 22, 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 96)**

One: O sing to the Almighty a new song; sing to God, all the earth.

All: Sing to Creator; bless God's name; tell of the Redeemer's salvation from day to day.

One: Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

All: For great is the Almighty and greatly to be praised; Honor and majesty are before God; strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.

One: Ascribe to God the glory due God's name;

All: Let us worship the Almighty in holy splendor. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN**

“Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling”

Black # 67

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: Appear to us here, God of all worlds, for we need your assurance and blessing. We seek the strength to do what is right and just. We long to see you, even though we sense that a god we could see would be only a tiny part of you whose Spirit fills all time and space. We want you to have a face like ours, so we find your face in Jesus, and occasionally in one another. We want to be certain that our decisions and actions are right, but often it is only long afterwards that we realize you were with us. O God, we want to be open to all you are revealing to us now. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Awesome God, how puny is our cleverness before the magnitude of your reality! How fleeting are our days measured against the far reaches of eternity! Yet we set our limited knowledge and restricted purposes against your will for us and presume to direct our own affairs and those of the whole world. O God, we are trapped in our pretensions. Turn us from our need for proof to extravagant praise. Turn us inside out so our self-interest becomes concern for all your neglected children. Suppress in us the sinful ways we find so difficult to manage on our own, that we may joyously render to you all that is already yours. You raise us from helplessness to hope, from arrogant self-seeking to humble service. We rejoice in your transformative gift of forgiveness! 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 33:12-23

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

HYMN

“Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way”

Black # 465

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:15-22

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: O God, you call us to manage well all the things that belong to you. The empires of this world have no claim on the resources you provide except as they are used for the common good. The offerings we receive as a church are not for our private benefit. Thus, we dedicate these gifts of money, ability, and time to extend a helping hand and joyous welcome to all people. May our efforts find favor with you. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Great Is Your Faithfulness”

Black # 423

***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