

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

Sunday, October 29, 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 34)**

One: Bless the Holy One at all times; God’s praise shall continually be on our hearts.

All: Let our souls boast in the Divine; let the humble hear and be glad.

One: O magnify the Divine with me, and let us exalt God’s name together.

All: God redeems the life of God’s servants; none of those who take refuge in the Divine will be condemned.

One: O come and see that God is good;

All: Let us worship the Holy One together. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN**

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Black # 86

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: As we gather in this place, O God, we join with all your saints in every time and place to celebrate salvation. You heal the brokenness within and among us. You rescue us from the hurt we impose on one another amid our doubts and fears and frantic scrambling for attention. Help us in these moments to know your Spirit surrounding us, to sense your love embracing us, to realize your goodness, empowering us for joyous service. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to you, O God, forever and ever. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Saving God, save us from ourselves. Rescue us from the fears that keep us from following where Jesus leads or trusting in your guidance. We have not hungered and thirsted for righteousness. We have not been pure in heart or humble-minded. We do not risk an unpopular witness or step bravely into the role of peacemaker. Our words and deeds do not praise you. Our worship lacks passion and conviction. We seek you now, O God. Redeem your children and fill us with the radiance of your self-giving love. We take comfort in the refuge you offer. We give thanks for your abundant mercy. We open our hearts to your transformative grace. Praise be to you, O God! 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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 7:9-17

EPISTLE READING

1 John 3:1-3

HYMN

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

Black # 295

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12

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: We worship you night and day, gracious God, in the temple of your universe. So vast is your reality that our minds cannot comprehend, yet your presence is so real that we cannot help but rejoice. You are our refuge and deliverer and our hope for all eternity. May our offerings welcome many to the abundance of your love. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“O Savior, for the Saints”

Black # 298

***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