

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

Sunday, November 19, 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 90)**

One: Holy One, you have been our God from generation to generation. Even when the heavens and the earth were without form, you were with us.

All: Creator, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

One: We enter your presence to worship and praise your holy name.

All: Mighty One, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

One: Teach us to count the days with joy and appreciation for all your marvelous works and steadfast love.

All: Everlasting God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. We come to worship you! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Come to Tend God’s Garden”

Black # 586

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: Generous God, you pour your Spirit into us. You bless us with your love. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in time of need or of celebration. We turn toward you now seeking to receive your message, to give you honor, and to commune in your presence. Make yourself known among us, O God; make yourself known to us. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Sovereign God, we confess that life is hard. We don’t always make the best choices, and all too often we realize the options before us are lacking. We are overwhelmed with the enormity of the world’s problems. Sometimes, we turn away completely. Sometimes, we respond with our earthly allegiances first in mind. Bitterness and resentment are easy guides. Help us seek wisdom and clarity, compassion and presence, hope and peace over shallow victories, material gain, and violence of the mind, body, or spirit. As we receive your grace, O God, bless us to be peacemakers, hope sharers, and love spreaders in the world for our neighbors and for your glory. Praise be to you! 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

Psalm 24

EPISTLE READING

James 1:19-27

HYMN

“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

Black # 448

GOSPEL READING

John 18:19-23, 37-38

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: Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name and for your kingdom. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Black # 31

***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 by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsey, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown