

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

Sunday, December 10, 2023 10:15 am

Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

Church Website: [mysolomonsucc.org](http://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** (Inspired by Psalm 85)

One: Hear what the Holy One will speak, for God will speak peace to God’s people.

*All: Surely salvation is at hand, and God’s glory will dwell in all the land.*

One: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

*All: The Holy One will give what is good. Praise be to God!*

One: On this second Sunday of Advent, we light again the candle of hope, and we light the candle of peace.

*All: Let us worship God together! Amen.*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

“Now Bless the God of Israel”

Black # 110

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*All: Righteous and holy God, your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted up and mountainous problems are leveled. In your presence, we see more than our immediate situation. We catch a glimpse of your eternal purposes. So come among us now and speak your word of peace. Feed us with your truth, and equip us to welcome Christ’s coming. Amen.*

**MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE**

**ONE:** God of glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst nor listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity often goes unrecognized amid our self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. Our church is focused more on our own survival than on its mission in the world. We come to you today with sincere repentance for our neglect. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ’s entry into our everyday environment.

Pardon and transform us, we pray. As we experience your tenderness, we receive your assurance that our sins are forgiven and that our salvation is at hand. May we be changed. May we be formed more into the image of Jesus for the sake of others. May we be more like him tomorrow than we are today. We rejoice in your mercy, O God! We give thanks and praise for your grace! Amen.

**PRAISE HYMN**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Black # 125

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 40:1-11

**EPISTLE READING**

2 Peter 3:8-15a

**HYMN**

“On Jordan’s Bank”

Red # 84

**GOSPEL READING**

Mark 1:1-8

**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**

Red # 89

*O come, let us adore him!*

*O come, let us adore him!*

*O come, let us adore him!*

*Christ, the Lord!*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*All: While we are waiting and preparing for Christ to appear, we are seeking, O God, to act as faithful followers. May our offerings extend the promise of salvation to all people. May these gifts offer hope to all whose suffering and loss seem too heavy to bear. May we and our church be a listening, caring presence for our community. Amen.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Black # 144, Red # 94

**\*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*