

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

Sunday, December 22, 2024 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** (inspired by Luke 1:44-45, from LiturgyLink)

One: Elizabeth said to Mary, “As soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” In the beginning was the Word—spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.

All: Trust the good news—God’s promise is true!

One: The Word was in the beginning, and through God all things come into being.

All: Eternal and near at hand, Already and not-yet, God’s promise is the foundation of all life.

One: Trust in God! Wait with faith, giving voice to Christ’s love for all.

The candle of love is lit.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Black # 129 (Red # 92)

A BLESSING FOR THE COMING OF JUSTICE

Written by Dr. Kate Bowler

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

All: Merciful God, when we sense who you are, we are ashamed. The abundance you have given us has made us proud more than thankful. We act as if our accomplishments were all our own doing.

We seldom acknowledge your generosity or let you rule our lives. We go through the forms of worship, but we try to keep you at a safe distance. We fill our lives with status-producing activity that blocks out your call and limits our response. O God, we need to change. Will you help us?

One: Those who allow themselves to know God are already in touch with God’s mercy. It is newly experienced every day. It is available to the least of us and the greatest. All whose spirits hunger for God discover how richly they have been fed. God has been doing great things for us. Let us commit to doing God’s will. May our spirits rejoice as we magnify God together.

PRAISE HYMN

Gloria in excelsis Deo,

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Black # 125

CHILDREN’S TIME

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2-5a

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

HYMN

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

Black # 119

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55

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: Thank you, God, for your mercy and protection, for feeding us physically and spiritually, for caring for us like a shepherd. We present our offerings as an act of gratitude. What we can never repay we pause to appreciate. In the name of generosity we cannot match, we seek to be generous toward others. May these offerings do far more than support our church. We dedicate ourselves and these gifts to honor Christ through ministry in the world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“What Child is This”

Black # 148

***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 feel led and are comfortable*

Liturgies adapted from Lavon Bayler’s Gathered By Love, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown