

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

Sunday, December 24, 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** (inspired by Psalm 89)

One: Sing of God’s great love; with our voices let us make God’s faithfulness known.

All: Let us declare that God’s love stands firm forever, that God has established God’s faithfulness.

One: God’s hand will sustain and strengthen God’s people.

All: God’s faithful love is with us, let our Emmanuel be exalted.

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light again the candles of hope, peace, and joy, and we light the candle of love.

All: Let us worship God together! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Black # 129, Red # 92

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: We bring our spiritual hungers to this place, O God, hoping to be fed. We bring our weariness, expecting to find rest for our souls. We bring our dullness, asking that we might be alerted to those things that you consider important. We come because we want the scattered fragments of our lives to come together in a meaningful wholeness. You have promised to be with us. Reveal yourself to us here, we pray in the name of One who came to share our common lot. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess that we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from you. We have taken pride in ownership more than giving praise through stewardship. We have neglected to thank you, either in good times or when you have supported us during days of uncertainty. We have resisted the newness you offer. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us in paths of trust and obedience. You are the Rock of our salvation. May your mercy come to us who humbly seek it. May we be changed and transformed by your abundant grace and steadfast love. Praise be to you, O Holy One! Amen.

PRAISE HYMN

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

Black # 125

CHILDREN’S TIME

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

EPISTLE READING

Romans 16:25-27

HYMN

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

Black # 119

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

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**

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: Our best we give to you, loving God, for you have given your best to us in the mystery of the incarnation. May our offerings proclaim Jesus in ways that will be received with joy. Send your Word to the world in this season through our caring service. May we share it with one another in ways that help us all to grow. We are your servants. The gifts we dedicate are already yours. Thank you for all the ways you have provided for us. 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’re comfortable*

Liturgies from Led by Love by Lavon Baylor, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown