

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

Sunday, December 3, 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**

One: Come, let us enter with gladness the house of the Holy One.

All: Let us call on the name of our God, who does awesome deeds we do not expect.

One: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. In you we trust, O Holy One.

All: Let your face shine, O God; save and restore us. For you we will wait all day long.

One: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope.

All: Let us worship God together! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Black # 126, Red # 91

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: Merciful God, you are our light and our hope. Come to us in our worry and distress. Drive away our fear. Come to rule the world with your truth and grace; guide the nations to reflect the glories of your justice and love. Make us ready to observe the birth of the Prince of Peace, that we may work always for the coming of your perfect peace. In the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: You have promised, O Lord, to remember our sins no more. We confess that we have not always walked in your paths or trusted your promises. We look for security in the wrong places, and fail to lean on your mighty, outstretched arm. We are distracted by worries and possessions and do not see the favor of your grace surrounding us. We desire the things that will not last and neglect the abundant gifts of your Spirit. Wake us up to your goodness and mercy: hear us, forgive us, restore us. We are all your people, O God. We trust that you will lead us like a flock to your goodness and grace. As we receive your abundant mercy and outpouring love, we rejoice in the promise that you are with us always. Praise be to you, mighty God! Amen.

PRAISE HYMN

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

Black # 125

CHILDREN'S TIME

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

HYMN

“Watcher, Tell Us of the Night”

Black # 103, Red # 85

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-37

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.

COMMUNION

(insert)

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: How can we thank you enough, O God, for all that we have received from you and for all the joy we feel before you? Increase our gifts that we may abound and increase in love for one another and for all as we abound in love for you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Black # 133, Red # 99

***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 Season of Light and Hope by Blair Gilmer Meeks, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown