

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

Sunday, December 8, 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 Psalm 126:2, from LiturgyLink)

One: The Psalmist says, “Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’” In the beginning was the Word—spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.

All: Speak it loud and clear—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: Do not hold back! Speak out, giving voice to God’s peace that passes all understanding.
The candle of peace is lit.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Now Bless the God of Israel”

Black # 110

A BLESSING FOR OPEN ARMS

Written by Dr. Kate Bowler

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

All: O God, we have tried to cover up our sins, yet you know the disorder we have caused in our lives. You have witnessed our poor choices and our destructive habits. We have denied our baptism and ignored the responsibilities of discipleship. The good we do is often self-serving, while we avoid the full claims of gospel partnership. Hear our cries of repentance and turn our lives around, that we may know the wonder of your forgiveness. Amen.

One: Good news! God has done great things for us. We are loved; we are forgiven; we are claimed by God’s grace. The Holy One has begun a good work in us. Even now, the love of God is expanding our knowledge, sharpening our discernment, and equipping us for excellence. Go and bear fruit.

PRAISE HYMN

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

Black # 125

CHILDREN’S TIME

**OLD TESTAMENT READING
EPISTLE READING**

Malachi 3:1-4
Philippians 1:3-11

HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank”

Red # 84

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:68-79, 3:1-6

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: How good you have been to us, gracious God! How meagerly we have responded. You have restored our fortunes when we felt all was lost. You have filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. We give thanks, not only with a portion of our income, but also through renewed commitment to righteous living. By your grace, we share in the work Christ came to accomplish among us. May love abound in and through us. 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 feel led and are comfortable*

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