

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

Sunday, February 18, 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**

One: The voice of God proclaims of Jesus, “You are my beloved, and I love you.”

All: We, too, are God’s beloved children, loved and embraced.

One: With all the voices reminding us that we are not enough or don’t belong, it is tempting to forget our place in God’s Kingdom.

All: With the waters of baptism and the voice of God’s promises, we can face the temptations of any wilderness or desert that would draw us away from the Source of our hope.

One: Embrace your belovedness.

All: We rejoice in God’s unending love for us! Let us praise God together. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

Black # 459

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: God of waters and deserts, God of hope and horizons, we celebrate your presence among us and among all your people. You have proclaimed that Jesus was beloved and, tenderly, you have claimed us as your own. Open the skies. Break through the clouds. Fall softly upon our shoulders and say our names with joy. For this day and each day, no matter what the other voices may say, we are your beloved and we rejoice in your inbreaking Kingdom. Amen and Amen!

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: O God of love, just as Jesus was driven out to be tempted in the wilderness, we too, face wildernesses. We are tempted to forget your promises, to rely upon our own strength, and to listen to the destructive voices of power and oppression. Free us from our pride. Help us to reclaim our spiritual center as rooted in your love. Open our being to hear your voice proclaim us as your children who are welcomed, held, and whole. Help us to see others a beloved. Even as we confess our sins to you, O God, we rejoice that in Christ Jesus we are forgiven and made new. We give thanks for your abundant mercy and empowering grace. Praise be to you, O Holy One! Amen.

PRAISE HYMN

Black # 283

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

CHILDREN’S TIME

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 9:8-17

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

HYMN

“Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days”

Black # 211

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:9-15

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**

Black # 785

We give you but your own

Whate’er the gift may be

All that we have is yours alone

We give it gratefully

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from your servants and use them for the breaking in of your Kingdom of love and light. In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“I Am Yours, O Lord”

Black # 455

***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 UCC Worship Ways, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown