

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

Sunday, February 23, 2025 10:15 am

Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

Church Website: [mysolomonsucc.org](http://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 37)

One: Come, Beloved, and release your frenzied fear.

*All: We come, trusting the enduring promises of the Holy One.*

One: Let meekness rise as strength of soul.

*All: May our promised inheritance of love shine brightly all around.*

One: May it strengthen us in our waiting and our working.

*All: May all that is evil wither, and all that is good grow to fullness.*

One: May the grace of God rest on us all as we gather.

*All: Amen.*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

“Come, God, Creator, Be Our Shield”

Black #69

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*Holy Love, bear in us a new beginning. Soften our hearts and still our minds as we come into your gracious embrace. Hold the worries and wanderings of our lives. Gift us with the renewing energy of your Holy Spirit. Let it meet our fatigue and form in us a deepened commitment to your vision of the beloved community. Mold us with love into agents of your blessing, for the good of the world. May the cup of our lives run over with things of your desire. In your Holy name, we pray. Amen.*

**MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*God of the grand reversal, we confess our easy attachment to revenge in its many forms. Instead of interrupting violence, it has been easy to practice it in word and deed. It has been easy to worship the lie of scarcity instead of trusting your promise of abundance. By this, the way of the world has worked into our hearts and minds. Forgive us and free us from ourselves. Equip us anew with an outpouring of your love. By your presence, form us into channels of grace. Deepen our love, expand our generosity, and mold us and the world with your abundant mercy. Let the heart and mind of Christ take up residence in us anew. 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 45:3-11, 15

**EPISTLE READING**

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

**HYMN**

“Your Ways Are Not Our Own”

Black #170

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 6:27-38

**SERMON**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

*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**

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**

*Generous God, thank you for pressing your holy love into our lives. Bless these gifts we bring that they may be multiplied into a goodness larger than we can imagine. Bless us, also, that we might live our lives in gratitude, sharing freely without expectation of return. Through this way of Jesus, stretch our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of your Holy grace. Amen.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

“Lord, I Want To Be a Christian”

Black #454

**\*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 from the UCC's Worship Ways, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown*