

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

Sunday, February 25, 2024 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**

One: Do not be afraid to answer the call to discipleship.

*All: What does the call require?*

One: Letting go of our life as we know it. Following the way of the cross. Aligning our soul with God's.

*All: We step out in the way of Jesus by losing our life to save it.*

One: Do not be afraid to walk in the way of Jesus.

*All: We answer the call, unashamed and unafraid. Let us praise God together! Amen.*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

“The God of Abraham Praise”

Black # 24

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*All: O God, we are offered every opportunity to embrace the path that helps us gain the world at the expense of our soul. Instead, you have called us to yourself and to follow in the way of love and compassion. Teach us about Jesus' way and lure us away from the paths of self-absorption and greed. You have called us to discipleship, to self-emptying, and embracing your way with courage. May it be so. Amen.*

**MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE**

**ONE:** Holy God, like Peter, sometimes we think we know better than you do. We make our own attempts to save ourselves and others from the cross filled path you have called us to walk. Help us to get behind you, because it has become easier to rely upon ourselves, rather than on your strength and presence. Grant us grace and help us to let go of our need for control so that you and your way might be our guide and path forward. God of compassion, shape and transform us anew, grant us peace for our souls and hope for our lives. We know that you who calls us to follow in the way of Jesus are merciful and offer the consolation of love in a world of empty promises. All thanks and praise be to you, O God. 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 17:1-7, 15-16

**EPISTLE READING**

Romans 4:13-25

**HYMN**

“Take Up Your Cross,’ the Savior Said”

Black # 204

**GOSPEL READING**

Mark 8:31-38

**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**

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: Giving God, Jesus invited us to give our lives away, take up our cross, and to follow. May the sharing of these gifts nurture our commitment to walk in your way. May others be blessed by your work through these gifts. In the name and way of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

Black # 292

**\*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*