

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

Sunday, March 10, 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: God’s love is for all of creation.

All: The vastness of God is for human, animal, soil, and sun, all together as God’s beloved.

One: God has not come into the world in Jesus to condemn us.

All: Jesus has come to live God’s love in the flesh.

One: While the world is dim with injustice and the feeling of loneliness,

All: it is in Jesus that the light of love illumines our path. Come, let us join our lives with the One, whose love is for the whole world. Let us worship God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Black # 547

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: O God, the vastness of your love flows through all of creation. This is cause for rejoicing! For all the harshness and condemnation that we see in the world, you have come to us out of love, compassion, and to save us from ourselves. We acknowledge our belief that you have come to redeem, to heal, to restore, and forgive, not just some of the world, but all of the world. May our worship embody the love and light you bring in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Holy One, we confess there are moments when we desire to see you bring condemnation on others or wish that your love was not for the whole world, but just a few. A few like us. But your love is bigger than our limited lenses, broader than our small scope of vision of all that love embodies. Help us to see the world as you do. Help us to love as you do. Release us from our need to condemn and set us free for love. That is what you came enfleshed to show us. We give thanks, we rejoice, that your grace, O God, surrounds us and keeps us in love now and forever. Praise be to you! 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

Numbers 21:4-9

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

HYMN

“As Moses Raised the Serpent Up”

Black # 605

GOSPEL READING

John 3:14-21

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: Generous God, we offer these gifts in the spirit of light and with a heart full of gratitude for what we’ve been given. These offerings are one way of showing our commitment to sharing with those who are in need, neighbors near and far, whom we are unlikely to meet. Let us not hide our light under a bucket, but shine it for all to see. Bless the gifts just as you have blessed us, with an extra measure of your grace. In Christ’s name, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Black # 223

***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*