

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

Sunday, March 24, 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: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

All: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

One: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

All: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

One: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

All: Hosanna, come and save us! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Black # 216

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION** *(with raised palms)*

All: Humble God, you have shown us the way to enter all the Jerusalems of this world. You showed us not to enter our lives with fear, but with humility and courage. As we worship this day, we draw upon your example of Jesus on that humble donkey and we raise our palm branches in rejoicing!

We raise our voices, shouting along with your people of every age, “Hosanna in the highest!”

Come and save us this day, O Jesus our deliverer. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: God of our hosannas, it would be all too easy to embrace a vision of you as entering Jerusalem with all the pomp and circumstance and violence that power provides. And yet, that is not your way.

We confess that we often whisper with the ways of fear rather than shout of your liberation for all people. Help us to lay our lives at your feet, to be changed by your mercy, and to welcome you with shouts of joy. Help us to leave our fears behind, for they do not have the last word and do not have to be the donkey you ride in on. We are grateful, O God, for the way of hope, humility, and hosannas that you offer. We rest in the assurance that we are forgiven and embraced in the tender arms of your love, 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

PSALM READING

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

HYMN

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Black # 213

GOSPEL READING

Mark 11:1-11

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: God of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim and to offer your salvation to all people. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Ride on! Ride On in Majesty”

Black # 215

***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