

A Warm Welcome to
Solomon's United Church of Christ

Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:00 pm

Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

Church Website: mysolomonsucc.org

WORDS OF WELCOME

ORGAN PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The week has come to wrestle with the story.

All: The week has come to reveal the profane.

One: The day has come to embody the sacred.

All: The day has come to reflect on love.

One: The hour has come to remember the story.

All: The hour has come to bring peace to our souls. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN "What Wondrous Love Is This" Black # 223**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: Holy God, we enter the space where the story begins. As evening extinguishes daylight, we begin the task of remembering the story. Our minds race as we place ourselves around the table with Christ. Our souls become quieter as the bread is broken and the cup is poured. May we recall tonight's story as one that has drawn us together over time. May the readings and rituals bless our heavy hearts worn down by this world. Heal us with each word, each sense, each breath. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Holy Deliverer, tonight, we have reached the all-too-familiar story of the eve before the execution. While there are times when we relate very well to Jesus in this story, we forget that we have been Judas, Peter, and the disciples. We have allowed ourselves to become part of someone's story of pain. Our words have pierced another's hearts. We have betrayed our neighbor instead of filling this world and another's soul with love. Instead of living with the heaviness of guilt, allow us to create peace around us and within us. Invite us to share our repentance and to reconcile whenever possible. May we live into the mandate to love one another as you love us. May your mercy transform us into bearers of love in a wounded world. 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*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12:1-14

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

HYMN

"Christ at Table There with Friends"

Black # 227

GOSPEL LESSON

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

SERMON

INVITATION TO THE COMMUNION TABLE

Pastor: This table is open to all. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table, then, just as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: We remember... Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: Eternal God... We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY



MARCH 28, 2024

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

O God, by coming to your table we receive more gifts than we deserve. We give thanks for Jesus Christ, through whom we receive life and in whom we are bound in covenant. Renew us so we may willingly serve as Christ served. 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

O God, even when the workings of the world are harsh, you are present. Even when shame rattles our souls, you pour goodness and mercy upon us. May we live into the command of Christ: love one another as Christ loved us. Through our actions and gifts, may our faith come alive and our neighbors experience your love in new ways. Amen.

*HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Black # 226

SILENT REFLECTION AS THE ALTAR IS MADE BARE

As you feel lead, you may participate in stripping the altar.

Please Depart in Silence.

**Please stand as you're comfortable
Liturgies from UCC Worship Ways, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown
Communion liturgy from the UCC Book of Worship.*