

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

Sunday, March 3, 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: We are called to enter into the house of God,

All: to worship and receive the gift of grace.

One: As we step towards this sacred space,

All: we acknowledge all that can distract or exploit.

One: God calls upon us to cleanse our houses and ourselves of all that does not find its source in God's love.

All: Together we give ourselves in worship and right relations with our neighbor. Let us worship God together! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling” (vv. 1-4)

Black # 67

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: O God of temples and tables turned over, we enter this sacred space of worship seeking your transformation and healing. Make us ready for the kind of turned upside down world you are seeking to build among us. We have come to this place of worship to be changed, so turn over our tables and make us whole. In the name of Jesus our savior. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Holy God, there are times when we choose to bring our folly and the many reckless ways of exploiting others into your house. Sometimes without our even knowing it. And so, when our houses of worship need change or when we have wandered from your ways, help us to turn towards you. Not because of what we can gain from you, but because your love is a gift unearned and unwavering.

Grant us your grace, O God, in the name of Christ. We find comfort in the depth of your compassion.

We rejoice that your love and mercy are everlasting. Transform us, O God, and transform the world through us by your love which reaches towards each of us with a tender embrace. May this be our assurance this day and always. Praise be to you, O 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 20:1-17

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Black # 436

GOSPEL READING

John 2:13-22

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: O God, whose richness is not found in greed, but rather in extravagant love for neighbor, we entrust these gifts to your care that they may abound in your steadfast love for all persons. Use them for the building of your beloved community here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Black # 43

***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