

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

Sunday, March 9, 2025 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** (Inspired by Psalm 91)

One: Are you restless and unsettled? This place is for you.

All: Let us worship God!

One: Are you hungry for love and hope? This place is for you.

All: Let us worship God!

One: Are you searching for direction? This place is for you.

All: Let us worship God!

One: Do you have love to share? This place is for you.

All: Let us worship God together! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** "Come, God, Creator, Be Our Shield" **Black #69**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Whether we feel alone, or accompanied, God is with us. Let us open ourselves to recognize God's presence within us and among us. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

All: Gracious God, you hold us, but in times of stress, we fear that we are all alone. We hunger for easy comfort, even knowing that our appetite will return. We aim for power over uncertainty, forgetting that control is an illusion. Forgive us for choosing distraction to escape from chaos. Bring our focus back to you, to your word, your presence, and your child Jesus. Amen.

One: God reaches out to us, eagerly drawing us close, forgiving our sins through God's unending grace. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

PRAISE HYMN **Black # 198**

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

EPISTLE READING

Romans 10:8b-13

HYMN

"Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days"

Black #211

GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:1-13

SERMON

PASTORAL PRAYER & OUR LORD'S PRAYER

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 # 778

Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise God, all creatures here below

Praise God for all that love has done / Creator, Christ, and Spirit, one.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Dear God, use these gifts, and our lives, to feed and nourish, spreading your love where it is most needed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Be Not Dismayed"

Black #460

***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 feel led and are comfortable*

Liturgies from the UCC's Worship Ways, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown