

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

Sunday, April 20, 2024 10:15 am

Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

**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: At early dawn, when the light was just emerging and the shadows still long and deep, the earth began to sing a tender and persistent hallelujah.

*All: And the resurrection smelled like death and dirt. Christ, the Power of Love, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.*

One: At early dawn, with the salt of tears still crusting their eyes, the women began to sing a grieving and faithful hallelujah.

*All: And the empty tomb sounded like weeping and questions. Christ, the Wounded One, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.*

One: At early dawn, when no one could remember the sound of hope or the promise of a new day rising, the world began to sing a fierce and determined hallelujah.

*All: And the rising up tasted like bread and rejoicing. Christ, the Way of Truth and Life, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.*

One: At early dawn, as each day breaks forth, we sing a grateful and liberating hallelujah.

*All: Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Black # 233

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*Resurrecting God, we meet you in the empty tomb where our griefs and joys, despairs and hopes intermingle. Through our prayers and praise this Easter day, open our hearts to remember that the power of love and life will overcome every death-dealing force, no matter how pervasive or persuasive. In this troubling and joyful time, dazzle us with good news, Holy Rising Up One, in whose path we follow and name we pray. Amen.*

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION and WORDS OF GRACE**

One: How many times have we succumbed to despair and distraction and forgotten God’s prophetic promises, unable to remember the power of steadfast Love and persistent Justice?

*All: God, have mercy.*

One: How many times have we reacted with disbelief to the truths testified by those we perceive as less powerful, treating them as untrustworthy, uninformed, and insignificant?

*All: Christ, have mercy.*

One: How many times have we dismissed the visions and wisdom of marginalized voices as idle tales, and failed to recognize their witness to a new future of flourishing for all?

*All: God, have mercy.*

One: How many times does God greet our failures with grace and mercy?

*All: Hallelujah. Praise our Resurrecting God!*

One: How many times will God forgive us and call us beloved?

*All: Hallelujah. Praise our Rising Up God!*

One: How many times will God free us in love to begin anew?

*All: Hallelujah. Thanks be to the God who makes all things new!*

**PRAISE HYMN**

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

Black # 198

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 65:17-25

**EPISTLE READING**

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

**HYMN**

“I Come to the Garden Alone”

Black # 237

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 24:1-12

**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.*

**COMMUNION**

(insert)

**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**

*To the witness of new life emerging, O God, open us. To the work of new world building, O God, commit us. To the power of love persisting, O God, dedicate us. For the calling of faith rising up, God equip us. Amen.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

“Christ Rose Up from the Dead”

Black # 239

**\*BENEDICTION**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

*\*Please stand as you’re comfortable*

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