

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

Sunday, April 28, 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 delight ourselves in the presence of Christ and his love for all creation.

All: Let us open our hearts to receive Christ's abundant love.

One: Christ calls us to see him as the vine and for us to become the branches.

All: Let us seek to produce much fruit in God's Garden where all are welcome.

One: Let us worship the Master Gardener, Creator of all that was, is and forever will be.

All: Let us worship God together with joy and thanksgiving! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" **Black # 7**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: Living God, we embrace your presence in our lives. Help us to grow stronger together in your garden of love. Plant us together in your peace. Root us together in your hope. Transform us together by your equal justice for all. In your loving presence, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Creating God, we are grateful for the hope that you offer to us and all creation. We ask for your forgiveness in those times when we fail to follow your example; when we choose greed over generosity; and when we choose silence over speaking out. Change our hearts and minds, O God, from the belief in earthly scarcity to confidence in your divine abundance. Strengthen us to be branches in your life-giving garden so that all might know of your grace and love. Prune us so that we may have a cleansed heart. Help us to grow your garden of love. Water our despair so it can be transformed into your hope. Feed our minds so that all may glean from your wisdom. Nurture our spirits so that we can become more fruitful in our lives. Give us new life, we pray. We rejoice in the forgiveness you offer. We give thanks for your mercy and grace. We are confident in your love! 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

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 8:26-40
EPISTLE READING 1 John 4:7-21

HYMN "Take My Life, God, Let It Be" **Black # 448**

GOSPEL READING John 15:1-8

SERMON SEEDS PODCAST *The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay*

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: Compassionate God, bless these gifts with your light that cultivates love for all creation. As our gardener, O God, sprinkle water on our dry branches to bring us hope and life and abundant goodness. Shine your light on all who benefit from these gifts, that our community may be blessed. May this offering further your kingdom – your garden of love – in the world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" **Black # 495**

***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*