

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

Sunday, April 7, 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: As we join in worship this day, we might feel like the disciples, overwhelmed by grief.

After all, the state of the world is so uncertain.

All: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, “Peace be with you.”

One: We might feel like Thomas, looking for physical signs that the unbelievable could be true. After all, nothing like this has ever happened before.

All: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, “Here are the marks on my body.”

One: Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?

All: Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us. Christ’s peace is with us. We don’t need to be afraid.

One: Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship, and we receive the peace of Christ.

All: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

***OPENING HYMN**

“Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!”

Black # 253

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: Resurrected Christ, you have taught us how the unbelievable can be possible. When there is so much to fear in the world, we can find peace in your presence. As we worship, breathe your Spirit on us, that we may carry it with us. Help us comfort our neighbors. Help us serve a world in need. We pray this with thanksgiving for your work among us. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: God, we confess that we too might be like Thomas. As we are overwhelmed by the world’s grief, it’s natural for us to be cynical. It’s hard to believe that hope is possible when hope is hard to find. But when we stop believing in hope, we also stop believing liberation can be possible. When we stop working to tear down injustice and discrimination, we stop others from experiencing the peace we have found in you. Forgive our unbelief, calm our fears, and help us be instruments of your peace, O God. Come to us with grace. Help us believe. Empower us to do the work of justice. Encourage us as the work continues. Help us to know Christ’s peace, so we can share it with others. 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 4:32-35

EPISTLE READING

1 John 1:1-2:2

HYMN

“These Things Did Thomas Count”

Black # 254

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

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: God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos, and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. May it be so. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Black # 252

***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