

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

Sunday, August 18, 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: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy. Let us join our voices in giving thanks.

All: God's works are all around us. Those who share in God's work lack for nothing.

One: We are called to faithfulness, as God is faithful. We are people of the covenant, gathered to please God.

All: Holy and awesome is God's name. Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom.

One: Come, then, as wise and faithful people. Come as a beloved community.

**All: We are amazed that God remembers us. We reach out to the God who cares for us.
Let us worship God together! Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

Black # 4

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: God of steadfast love, your works delight our hearts and expand our thoughts. Your grace and mercy draw us together to praise you and to celebrate your wonderful deeds. Dwell among us today, and reign within the lives of each one gathered here, helping us to grow in discernment and understanding. Grant wisdom and courage that we may walk in your ways and keep your commandments, O God. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: O God, we confess that we have lived so comfortably in the abundance of our times that we have made things our gods. We spend our days dreaming of and working for possessions that cannot satisfy. The pursuit of riches replaces the quest for faith and faithful relationships. We do not know you, God, and our relationship with others is superficial at best. Redeem us, we pray, from our self-destructive ways and restore us to your covenant community. Forgive us, O God. Help us to be changed - molded more into the likeness of Jesus - by the gift of your grace. By your mercy, may we step into a new beginning of faithfulness. Thank you, Almighty One. Praise be to you! 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

Psalms 34:9-14

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 5:15-20

HYMN

“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

Black # 448

GOSPEL READING

John 6:51-58

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: Your generosity, O God, is abundant. You surround us with vast resources and with people who love us. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to share with others some of what we have received. Help us to use all our gifts as you intend. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Be Now My Vision”

Black # 451

***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 Lavon Baylor's Led by Love, adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown*