

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

Sunday, August 25, 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 (Psalm 34:15-22)**

One: The eyes of God are on the righteous, and God’s ears are open to their cry.

All: When the righteous cry for help, God hears. God is near to the brokenhearted and lifts the crushed in spirit.

One: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but God tends and keeps them.

All: God redeems the life of God’s servants; none of those who take refuge in the Holy One will be condemned.

One: Let us worship God together, with peace and joy in our hearts.

All: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Blessed Assurance”

Black # 473

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: We come together in this house of prayer, trusting you, O God, to give us everything we need. As you provide for the birds of the air, you supply life’s necessities for your children to share. We choose to respond to your promises by identifying ourselves as your servant people who are guided by your word. We gather to remember and reclaim your covenant with us. We gather to do the tasks you entrust to us, praying for strength to do our daily work as a ministry in your name. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Alert us now, eternal Spirit, to your presence among us in this place. Together, we confess that we have been so busy that we have often forgotten you. We have made little gods out of buildings and furnishings and programs. Sometimes our pet beliefs and interpretations have been all-consuming as we do battle to correct others and presume to defend you. We have forgotten that your love is stronger than any force on earth. Forgive our mistrust of its power, and draw us back into the company of disciples who are learning and growing in love. Redeem us, we pray. Lift our spirits, O God, that we may serve boldly as ambassadors of your love! Help us to find our strength in you, to trust you, and to serve your kingdom where we are needed most. We rejoice in the promise of your mercy. We give thanks for your abundant grace! May we love as we have been loved. Praise be to you, O God! 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

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 6:10-20

HYMN

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Black # 252

GOSPEL READING

John 6:56-69

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: May our giving add strength to the witness of your church, O God, as we humbly seek and share your love. Ready us to proclaim the gospel of peace in our homes, our places of work and leisure, throughout our community. and the world. May the mystery of faith overcome the cynicism of our skeptical, self-serving age, uniting us in disciplines that are freeing and discipleship that is fulfilling. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Lead On Eternal Sovereign”

Black # 573

***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