

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

Sunday, September 15, 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** (Inspired by Psalm 116)

One: Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

All: We love the Holy One, who has heard our cry, responds to our prayers, and abides with us through our distress.

One: Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

All: We praise the Righteous One, who protects, provides, and prepares God's people.

One: Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

All: We worship the Radiant One, who walks before us in the land of the living. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Black # 42

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: Loving Creator, we have come in response to your call to worship you. We have come to be in community with our neighbors. We have come with quiet contemplation and boisterous joy. We have come with burdens and with hope. We come to gather in your name, to seek your presence, and to give you praise. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Loving God, we believe that you are a God of transformation and a solid rock. We strive to be like trees planted by the water, steadfast and unmovable, while at the same time embracing your continuing creative acts in the world and in our lives. We must confess, though, that that is not always easy. We have at times struggled to follow your call and to obey your way. Infuse us with your wisdom and discernment, along with courage and grace to be fully who you have created us to be. Sustain our continued efforts to be faithful to Jesus' example. Through your grace, may we be formed more into his likeness, made new creations, and encouraged as the loving, Christlike people you call us to be. May your Spirit and your mercy go with us always. May the assurance of your forgiveness and love change us according to your will. May our lives reflect you into the world. All glory and honor are yours, O God. 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

Proverbs 1:20-33

EPISTLE READING

James 3:1-12

HYMN

“Take Up Your Cross,’ the Savior Said”

Black # 204

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:27-38

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: Generous God, may these gifts honor your name and your generous Spirit alive within us. We thank you for the opportunity and privilege of contributing to your kingdom and our world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Black # 436

***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 the UCC's "Worship Ways," adapted by Rev. Julia L. Brown