

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

Sunday, September 8, 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 125)

One: Those who trust in the Holy One are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever.

All: Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere around the earth.

One: We stretch out our hands and our hearts reaching for your goodness and righteousness.

All: Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere around the earth.

One: Lead us on good paths and make us agents of peace.

All: Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere around the earth. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“O How Glorious, Full of Wonder”

Black # 558

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: Holy One, our Maker, we gather to worship you, to renew our spirits, and to connect as a community. Some of us crave a joyful noise, some flourish in quiet contemplation, others desire movement, while others need to ponder our thoughts. However we worship, we gather here. In this place, we find you in the midst of us. In this connectivity, we know that your covenant remains in effect. May your Spirit guide, empower, and speak. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Holy One, we confess our tendency to exclude rather than to include, to form closed groups rather than open communities, and to prioritize comfort rather than embrace curiosity. Help us to truly love our neighbor, whether family, friend, stranger, or foe, as ourselves and with the love you demonstrate toward us. Help us to reflect our commitment to the gospel and to a life with Christ in our attitude and actions toward those with different life experiences, identities, and cultures. Help us to be open to the possibilities, wonders, and joy that the diversity of your creation presents to us. Help us to live our faith through our works, not just tell it with our words. Your grace, O God, is sufficient and transformative. May we be changed, made new, empowered, and guided by your love. We give you thanks and praise for your goodness and mercy, O God. In response, may we live up to your expectations. 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 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

EPISTLE READING

James 2:1-17

HYMN

“Community of Christ”

Black # 314

GOSPEL READING

Mark 7:24-37

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: Sovereign God, receive our offerings for the nurture and expansion of your kingdom. May they be magnified and the spirit of generosity among your people amplified so that all may do well. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”

Black # 537

***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