

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

Sunday, May 5, 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: Christ gives us a new commandment:

All: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

One: When we love one another as Christ has loved us, we will live lives full of joy.

All: *We will live with God's love deep in our hearts.*

One: Let us worship the one who shows us how to love.

All: *Let us worship with joy! Alleluia and amen!*

***OPENING HYMN**

“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!”

Black # 257

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

All: *Loving God, we remember your commandment to love one another as you have loved us. May this time of prayer, reflection, and worship remind us of the love we have in Jesus. As we leave this sacred space, may we be filled with joy as we share his love with others. Amen.*

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER, CONFESSION, and ASSURANCE

ONE: Jesus, our redeemer and friend, we confess that we do not always love one another. Our divisions and disagreements so often prevent us from knowing the joy of meaningful relationships. Our fear of scarcity so often leads us into selfishness. Our unknowing and privilege so often lead us to withhold neighborliness. Even as we seek to follow your example, we forget that we are chosen and appointed by you to bring hope and love to a weary world. Forgive us, we pray. We repent before you seeking transformation of our hearts and minds. Help us renew our focus and live by your will. Help us to follow you and to love others well with joy in our hearts. Help us to see each relationship and encounter as new opportunities to abide in your love and in beloved community. We rejoice in your extension of grace! We give thanks for your offer of additional chances! We rest and resolve in your mercy. Praise be to you, Loving One! 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 10:44-48

EPISTLE READING

1 John 5:1-6

HYMN

“We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed” (v. 1-4)

Black # 540

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17

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: *Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is to love one another. With these gifts, help us show your love and our love through our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair. Bless all who have given, and bless all who receive. Amen.*

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way”

Black # 465

***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