

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

Sunday, March 29, 2026 9:00 am

Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

Church Website: [mysolomonsucc.org](http://mysolomonsucc.org)

**WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Into the belly of the beast, on the back of a beast of burden... This is no parade of the powerful, no extravaganza for empire.

*Many: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Resistance. Hosanna in the highest heaven!*

One: Into occupied streets, on stolen land... This is no marvel of military might, no crusade of cruelty.

*Many: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Refuge. Hosanna in the highest heaven!*

One: Into histories of harm, surrounded by lineages of liberation... This is no acquiescence in advance, no complicity through conformity.

*Many: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Solidarity. Hosanna in the highest heaven!*

One: May our worship this day prepare the way for the Prince of Peace, cut branches for the King of

Compassion, line the path for the Lord of Liberation, soften the road for the Sovereign of Solidarity.

*Many: May our worship this day prepare us for where this way will lead.*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Black # 216

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)**

*Triumphant God, we come to lay down, here and now, whatever covers our vulnerabilities or cloaks our openness, that it may become part of the way of courage. We come to lay down, here and now, whatever shades our brilliance and the branches over our belovedness, that it may become part of the way of grace. We come to spread our cloaks and these cut branches, that we may also line this road, this journey, this way, with our cries for freedom until all our hearts and voices move toward, “Hosanna.” Journey and cry with us, we pray. Amen.*

**MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER and PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION**

When Jesus set the stage for his entrance into Jerusalem, he knew he would be competing with outward and visible displays of the dominating power of the Roman Empire. But he also knew that Empire didn't just live in parades of the powerful and shows of force. Empire also lives in our bodies, minds, spirits, relationships, and communities. So he set out with a donkey and a colt and a band of outcasts and freedom-fighters to help them and us imagine a different kind of power – the power of love and justice.

So on this day palms and hosannas, let us open ourselves to the transformation that comes from naming the ways Empire lives within us, and shapes the world around us with a story of dominance, division, and violence.

One: For the ways Empire has taught us to fear difference and believe that strength and safety require dominance and violence,

*Many: God, have mercy.*

One: For the ways Empire makes hierarchy the air we breathe and shapes who and what has worth and dignity,

*Many: Christ, have mercy.*

One: For the ways Empire separates us and convinces us that we don't belong to the land or each other.

*Many: God, have mercy.*

One: Open us to notice the tension, longing, and dissonance in our bodies revealing where Empire has tangled itself around us.

*Many: Turn us around, Holy One. Amen.*

**WORDS OF GRACE**

Let your soul receive this rest: You and we are not what Empire imagines. There is resistance, liberation, and wisdom beyond Empire. Thanks be to God who forgives us and frees us inviting us to a belonging where dignity is not earned, bought, or proven, but received as grace.

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**Black #775**

*And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

**EPISTLE READING**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

**HYMN**

**"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"**

**Black # 213**

**GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 21:1-11**

**SERMON**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & OUR LORD'S PRAYER (unison)**

*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**

When Jesus sent his disciples ahead of him into Jerusalem to find a donkey and colt for the protest he was planning, he was already showing them a way beyond Empire, where goods are shared in common and the worth of any being isn't only what they can do or produce. He reassures the disciples who might be questioning their task, saying, "If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.'" What resources might Jesus be asking you to share in common today? What might the Lord need from you to support our collective life and flourishing beyond scarcity? Let us give our offering today as a practice of resisting empire and moving toward God's vision of abundant love.

**\*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 THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (unison)**

*With our offerings we say, "thank you" and practice a new economy. With our practices we say, "yes, God," and resist Empire's hold. With our resistance we say, "Hosanna," and bless all the ones, who journey in the ways of courage and grace. Amen.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**"Ride on! Ride On in Majesty"**

**Black # 215**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Blessed are the ones who cut branches to honor the power of Love moving among us.

Blessed are the ones who go forth in the name of abundant life.

Blessed are the ones who choose the path of learning and unlearning, doing and undoing.

Blessed are the ones who journey toward liberation together.

May the One who had traveled this way before,  
guide your hearts and minds in the ways of peace and justice, love and freedom,  
beyond anything Empire can imagine

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**

*Liturgies adapted from UCC Worship Ways. Originally written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema.*