

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

Sunday, March 8, 2026 9:00 am

Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

Church Website: www.mysolomonsucc.org

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In our bones, there are lineages; we carry the seeds of division and the seeds of connection. Look around you and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

Many: We are called to prayer that reaps with honesty and awareness what our ancestors have sown.

One: In our cells, there are lineages; we carry the genes of harm and the genes of flourishing. Look around you and see how we are part of one another.

Many: We are called to devotion that holds with tenderness and justice what our ancestors have enfleshed.

One: In our sanctuaries, there are lineages; we carry the kernels of domination and the kernels of interdependence. Look around you and see how roots run deep.

Many: We are called to praise that tills with care and clarity what our ancestors have composted.

One: In our nation, there are lineages; we carry the marrow of chains and the marrow of freedom. Look around you and see how beneath us the water of life flows.

*Many: We are called to worship that thirsts with passion and courage for what our ancestors have dreamed.
Amen.*

OPENING HYMN

“O Saints in Splendor Sing”

Black # 380

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)**

Into the stream of those who have labored before us, Spirit, let us flow. Into the river that rolls down with justice, Spirit, let us step. Into the well that is deeper than our divisions, Spirit, let us draw. In this moment, in every moment, we pray: give us this water, Jesus, so we will never be thirsty again. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER and PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well, long histories and deep lineages of animosity and pain and oppression swirled under their feet. Deep and ancient divisions trained them to see each other only as “enemy.” But in their dance of testing and trust-building, openness and truth-telling, vulnerability and transparency, something new came into being between them.

In this moment, as we seek transformation and new life, as we practice repentance or turning around, let us enter this dance and see how honesty and humility can bridge what separates us from each other and God.

One: For the divisions we’ve created between “citizen” and “undocumented,” “American” and “illegal” and all the violence those divisions create:

Many: God, have mercy.

One: For the segregation we’ve inhabited between “ghetto” and “good schools,” for every border and wall and fence and redline and all the injustice that segregation creates:

Many: Christ, have mercy.

One: For each time we say “us” and mean, “not them.” For every “those people” and “you people” and all the fear and distaste that lives under our breaths:

Many: God, have mercy.

One: Heal us from the ways we deny our kinship and disregard the dignity and belovedness of each and all of us.

Many: Turn us around, Holy One. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well, ancient prophetic visions and age-old dreams of one human family swirled under their feet. Old promises of love and liberation became the living water of new life. Thanks be to God who forgives us and frees us inviting us, as siblings in Christ, to make our lives liturgies of Spirit and truth.

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 Exodus 17:1-7

EPISTLE READING Romans 5:1-11

HYMN "This Is My Song" **Black # 591**

GOSPEL READING John 4:5-42

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

In today's gospel, Jesus says to his disciples, "others have labored and you have entered into their labor." How might God be inviting you to enter into the labor of those who have gone before you in this community of faith? How might our offerings be both gratitude for and participation in the visions of our ancestors and the dreams they couldn't even imagine? Through our offerings, let us enter into their labor.

***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)**

Let these offerings become seeds taking root in love and justice. Let these seeds become harvests of liberation for all of us. Let these harvests become offerings toward the slow work of healing and transformation. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Children of God"

Black # 533

BENEDICTION

One: Beloveds, Look around you and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. As you go from this place, how will you tend lineages of division? How will you grow lineages of healing? What will be the seeds you sow? What will be the fruit you harvest?

May the God who Creates, Redeems and Sustains us touch your life with tenderness, hold your hope with ferocity, and guide your heart with courage as you become living water in a thirsty world.

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,

Many: May our service never end. Amen.

ORGAN CHIMES & POSTLUDE

**Please stand as you're comfortable*

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