

A Warm Welcome to
Solomon's United Church of Christ

Sunday, April 26, 2026 9:00 am

Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

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 23)

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

Many: The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.

Many: Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

Many: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days of life. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!

***OPENING HYMN**

“God is My Shepherd”

Black # 479

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION** (unison)

God who is Shepherd, Gate, and Way, we join together as a community in your presence and in your protection. Shield us from apathy and isolation. Fortify us against resignation and despair. Nudge us toward justice and righteousness in your name. As we gather to worship you, may we be transformed by your love, strengthened in grace, and rooted in faith for your glory and your kingdom come. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER and PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Shepherd of our lives, like sheep, we wander and stray. We come to you for sustenance yet distance ourselves from your realm when you require more from us. We bite one another with words that cut and attitudes that reflect more apathy than care. We lie down and become stuck when you would expand our territory and sphere of belonging. We give you thanks for not giving up on us and continuing to lead us by your Spirit. Give us courage and confidence to do your will and to love with our lives. We devote ourselves anew to your teaching, to community, to the sacramental life, and to prayer. Lead us in the ever full and renewed life in Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, the Shepherd cares for you and rejoices whenever you turn back to follow God's holy way. Life in the promise of glorious, flourishing life and the kingdom of God manifested on earth. There is no detour you may take where the Shepherd cannot find you and urge you back into their loving embrace. You are redeemed and restored in Christ. Receive the goodness of God whose grace is sufficient and available for you to begin anew.

PRAISE HYMN

Black # 198

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 2:42-47

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Peter 2:19-25

HYMN

“My Shepherd is the Living God”

247

GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:1-10

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

Community of faith, let us hold true to the ethos of the early church and hold “all things in common” (Acts 2:4). Let us share our abundance to enjoy shared life, to meet the needs among us, and to demonstrate our commitment to the kingdom of God.

***PRESENTATION & OFFERING RESPONSE**

Black # 778

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done / Creator, Christ, and Spirit, one.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, may these gifts bless our life together, fortify our ministry, and transform our community. Receive them as we give them—with gladness and thanksgiving. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Black # 252

***BENEDICTION**

One: Beloved, as you go, note the encouragement of the Shepherd:

The Gate is open and with you.

In your coming and going,

The Shepherd leads you.

Go, have life and have it abundantly.

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 POSTLUDE

**Please stand as you're comfortable*

Liturgies from the UCC's Worship Ways, originally written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay