

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

Sunday, May 10, 2026 9:30 am

Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

**WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Psalm 66)

One: Bless the Holy One, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard.

*Many: For God who claims us, tests us, and sustains us comes and invites us to come to them.*

One: Bless the Holy One, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard.

*Many: Blessed be God, who has not rejected our prayer or removed their steadfast love from us.*

One: Bless the Holy One, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard.

*Many: Come as we proclaim, witness, and testify to all God has done. Bless the Holy One!*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

"Praise to the Living God"

Black # 8

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

*Holy and Present God, hear the sound of praise as we share this space and time gathered among you. May our hearts be opened and our minds engaged. Let the Spirit of Truth live in our songs of adoration, prayers of intercession, and words of pondering. In your name, glory and honor. Amen.*

**MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER and PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION** (unison)

*Gracious and Eternal One, we proclaim that you breathe life into us and know us fully. Yet, sometimes, you remain unknown to us. Sometimes we search for you and sometimes we fumble about for you. We rest in the assurance that when we seek you, we will find you. But, there are times when we refuse to seek, refuse to search, refuse to fumble. There are times when we prefer to keep you in compartments so that you will not fully impact our lives. There are moments when we close ourselves off from your revealing word, guiding hand, and nudging Spirit. Forgive us, O God, for not coming to you as you come to us—fully, persistently, and constantly—and give us strength to fumble and reach toward you in all seasons and at all times. Amen.*

**WORDS OF GRACE**

Beloved, you are known by God and received as you are—wonderfully and beautifully, but not perfectly made. Draw near to God who knows your limitations and loves you. Seek the Holy One who recognizes your faults and finds the good in you. Search for the Spirit who discovers you on wayward paths and redirects you. Receive the God who comes to you with peace, grace, mercy, and joy. Come to the One who will not reject or rebuff you but will renew and restore you in hope and love.

**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 17:22-31

**EPISTLE LESSON**

1 Peter 3:13-22

**HYMN**

"Blessed Assurance"

Black # 473

**GOSPEL LESSON**

John 14:15-21

**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**

As we gather in the presence of God, let us acknowledge and act upon the blessings we receive and the gifts bestowed upon us. Let us give generously, as we are able, to fund the ministry of this gathered body and the work of Christ’s church in the world.

**\*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**

*Righteous God, receive these gifts we offer from our hearts and hands that they and we might be of service in your kingdom and for your glory. Amen.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**“Joys Are Flowing like a River”**

**Black # 284**

**\*BENEDICTION**

One: Go forth from this time and place but never from God’s presence.  
Go forth to witness and minister in the world.  
Go forth knowing that as you go...the Holy One comes to you  
With strength and courage for the journey.  
Go, in peace to love and to serve the Holy One and God’s good creation.  
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*