

A Warm Welcome to  
**Solomon's United Church of Christ**  
Sunday, May 3, 2026 9:30 am  
Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

**WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Psalm 31)

One: In You, Holy One, we seek sanctuary. In you, Sovereign God, we seek refuge.

**Many: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.**

One: You are indeed our rock and our fortress. Our times are in your hands. Strengthen us in your righteousness.

**Many: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.**

One: Shine upon us this day as we worship you. Saturate us in your steadfast love.

**Many: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

"Lead On Eternal Sovereign "

Black # 573

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

*Holy and Living God, build us into a spiritual house, a gathering of witnesses for the world and in the world to declare your goodness, to follow in your way, to do the work of your hands, voice, and heart. Renew our spirits as we worship you and bask in your presence. Fill us with your Spirit that we collectively proclaim ourselves as your people, called to the fullness of your glorious and radiant being. Amen.*

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

*Redeemer of our lives, we come to you knowing that we participate in a world often crushed by tyranny and evil. Our hearts are troubled, overwhelmed, and dismayed. At times, we feel helpless and hopeless by the enormity of the problems presenting all around us. We believe the lie of the enemy that there is nothing that we can do or that someone else is the one to do it. May you, Holy and Righteous One, be glorified in the tumbling of walls cemented in evil and fortified by hate. For this, we pray for courage and resolve to do the works needed in this hour. For this, we pray for faith, trust, and hope to believe that the realm of the possible eclipses the narrow places of improbability. For this, we pray for the boldness to pray for what the world needs and more than our imaginations may hold. Amen.*

**WORDS OF GRACE**

Chosen of God, receive the mercy of God, who calls you from despair into hope, from suffering into repair, from hopelessness into resolve. God has given you capacity for strength and compassion. The Holy One journeys with you. Grace is available for you. Know that your prayers are met and amplified by the Spirit, and Christ will lead the way to life and love everlasting on earth as in heaven.

**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 5:55-60

**EPISTLE LESSON**

1 Peter 2:2-10

**HYMN**

"Sing Them Over Again to Me"

# 319

**GOSPEL LESSON**

John 14:1-14

## 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

Generous ones, you bear the image of the Generous God, who has provided for all needs and gives good gifts. Accept the invitation to share, sacrificially and from abundance, resources needed in this community and by our neighbors throughout the world for the glory 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 the gifts that we bring reflect the image we bear. Be glorified through our generosity and the meeting of needs among and beyond us. Amen.*

### \*CLOSING HYMN

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

Black # 400

### \*BENEDICTION

One: Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in the power of God in you and through you.

Do the work of loving God, neighbor, and self.

Do the work of holding the complexity of life in tension with compassion and care.

Do the work of believing a future with hope is possible.

Do the work of nurturing that hope into a vision and vision into reality.

Do the work of glorifying God by following the way of Christ and praying with our lives.

Do the works.

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*