

A Warm Welcome to
Solomon's United Church of Christ

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 5:30 pm

Pastor Julia L. Brown

Church Website: mysolomonsucc.org

WORDS OF WELCOME

ORGAN PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION

***GREETING AND SENTENCES**

Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross. Jesus came to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate those who are oppressed and to proclaim the year of God's favor.

***HYMN** **"Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"** **Black #331**

***CONFESSION OF SIN and IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

One: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us return to that love. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing your sin and by asking God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

One: Let us pray.

Many: Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with all our heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

One: Have mercy on us, O God.

Many: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

One: Have mercy on us, O God.

Many: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

One: We confess to you, O God.

Many: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

One: We confess to you, O God.

Many: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

One: We confess to you, O God.

Many: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our honesty in our daily life and work,

One: We confess to you, O God.

Many: Our neglect in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

One: We confess to you, O God.

Many: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

One: Accept our repentance, O God.

Many: For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

One: Accept our repentance, O God.

Many: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

One: Accept our repentance, O God.

Many: Restore us, O God, and forgive us we pray.

One: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.

As you feel led, you may come forward to receive ashes.

One: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

Many: That we may show forth your glory.

One: By the cross and passion of our savior,

Many: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.

One: Almighty God does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from wickedness and live.

Therefore we implore God to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit that those things which we do this day may be pleasing to God, that the rest of our lives may be lived faithfully, and that at the last we may come to God's eternal joy; through Jesus the Christ

Many: Thanks be to God!

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 58:1-12

HYMN "Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days" Black #211

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

SERMON

COMMUNION INVITATION

One: Hear these words of Jesus, "I am the bread of life; anyone who comes to me shall not hunger; anyone who believes in me shall never thirst.

Many: Amen.

One: This table is open for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and seek to share in the community of God's people. Come to this table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets. We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name:

Many: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithfully in all things. Amen.

Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of salvation, we participate in the new life Christ gives. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)**

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

***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 DEDICATION (unison)**

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received, accept, we pray, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given; and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance the realm of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN**

"Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts"

Black #329

***BENEDICTION**

One: May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit go with you and be with you always. Our worship service has ended.

Many: May our service never end. Amen.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

**Please stand as you're comfortable*

Liturgies adapted from the UCC Book of Worship.