A Warm Welcome to

Solomon's United Church of Christ

Sunday, August 23, 2026 9:30 am

Rev. Julia L. Brown, Pastor

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Psalm 124)
One: Blessed be the Holy One. If it had not been God on our side—the people proclaim!
Many: With God on our side, we find our help in the name of the Holy One!
One: Blessed be the Holy One, who draws us from aimlessness, despair, and bitterness.
Many: With God on our side, we find purpose, hope, and peace.
One: Blessed be the Holy One, who calls us to love one another—neighbors, enemies, family and friends.
Many: With God on our side, we find compassion, grace, and mercy for one another. Blessed be the Holy One! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** **"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"** **Black # 459**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)**
Living God, you draw us from the waters that offer both life and death, nourishment and destruction, peace and power. We gather as your people to remember your timely and tangible works. We call upon your many names as we have known you to be Redeemer, Counselor, Shepherd, and Friend. We worship you for who you are, and we draw near to become who you have crafted us to be. Amen.

MOMENT of QUIET PRAYER and PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION (unison)
Sovereign God, we often forget important truths and lessons the past offers us, devalue the relationships brought to us, and misuse the power given to us. Help us to live in truth, with integrity, and for peace. May love and compassion guide us in all our actions and interactions. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE
Body of Christ, in the words of Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God–what is good and acceptable and perfect." Receive the grace of God and the power of being in community to proceed in the newness of life as the One who loves us draws us from the threat of the depths into the hope of a blessed future.

PRAISE HYMN **Black # 283**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me / Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. / Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

CHILDREN'S TIME

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON **Isaiah 51:1-6**
EPISTLE LESSON **Romans 12:1-8**

HYMN **"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"** **Black # 448**

GOSPEL LESSON **Matthew 16:13-20**

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

When we share our resources in community, we demonstrate our faith and trust in God's provision and in our collective discernment. When we give, we replicate the Holy One's generosity and creativity. When we offer ourselves, we magnify the blessings Creator has bestowed upon us. Let us give in a spirit of joy and hope for the kingdom of God.

***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**

Wonderful God, please sanctify these gifts for your glory, amplify them for your people, and replicate them for your kingdom. May they meet the needs and hopes of the world and community in which we belong.

***CLOSING HYMN** **"We Offer Christ"** **Black # 527**

BENEDICTION

One: With keys to the kingdom,
Given by the Creator of all,
Draw from the water of salvation and redemption.
Live in the purpose and promise of God.
Proclaim the power of heaven on earth.
Be the body of Christ wherever you go,
And know that the Holy one goes before you.
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.

CHIMES AND POSTLUDE

**Please stand as you're comfortable*

Liturgies originally written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.