



**IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

May 10, 2026 • 11:00 a.m.



Welcome to worship at Immanuel United Church of Christ!

God is Still Speaking,

Immanuel Open and Affirming Statement:

We welcome and affirm all people in celebrating diversity. We welcome to our faith family people of every race, age, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability and those who have doubts or questions.

Thank You for taking the time to turn off your cell phone during the worship service.

Prelude

*Bringing in the Light of Christ

(* denotes those who are able may stand.)

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Choir Anthem "Hymn of Promise"

Children Message

***Call to Worship**

One: Gather us in, O God.

Many: Amidst fire and storm, make us whole.

One: Bring us into your presence, Holy One.

Many: From suffering and pain, save us.

One: Shelter us in your loving arms, Precious Lord.

Many: On the highways of life, guide us.

One: Make us your disciples, Great Spirit.

Many: As we worship this day, lead us home.

Invocation

Holy flame, burn away our fears and regrets, that our spirits may shine like burnished gold.
Refiner's Fire, purify our lives like precious silver, that our hearts may glow with holy love. Forge
of truth, mold us into vessels of compassion, that our lives may reveal your glory. Amen.

***Hymn: "Be Not Dismayed"**

Words of Assurance

Even when we are tested by the refiner's fire, God brings us to a place of laughter and light on
the other side of our trials. The Advocate meets us in our suffering and heals us in holy love.

Jeff Erno

Immanuel Choir

Pastor Liz Wilson

Mary Beth Wiechert, Liturgist

Jeff Erno

Page 2

Jeff Erno

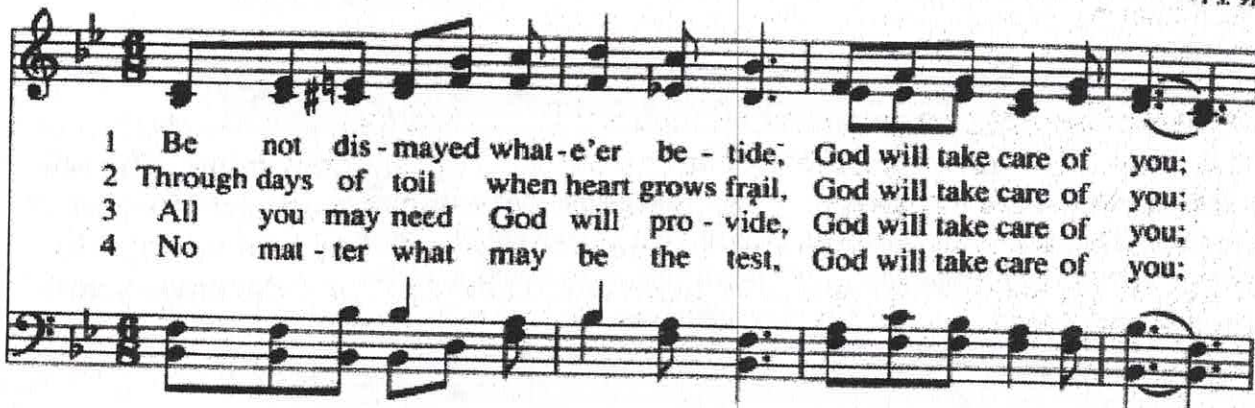
Be Not Dismayed

(God Will Take Care of You)

460

Civilla D. Martin, 1904; alt.

Ps. 91

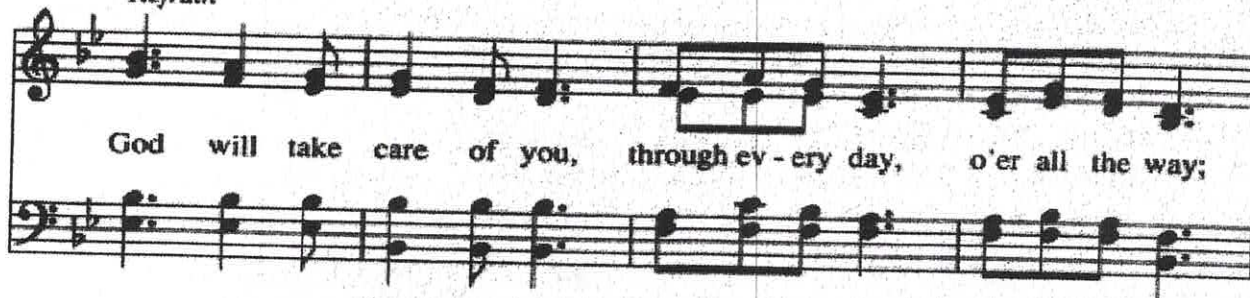


1 Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be-tide, God will take care of you;
2 Through days of toil when heart grows frail, God will take care of you;
3 All you may need God will pro-vide, God will take care of you;
4 No mat-ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;

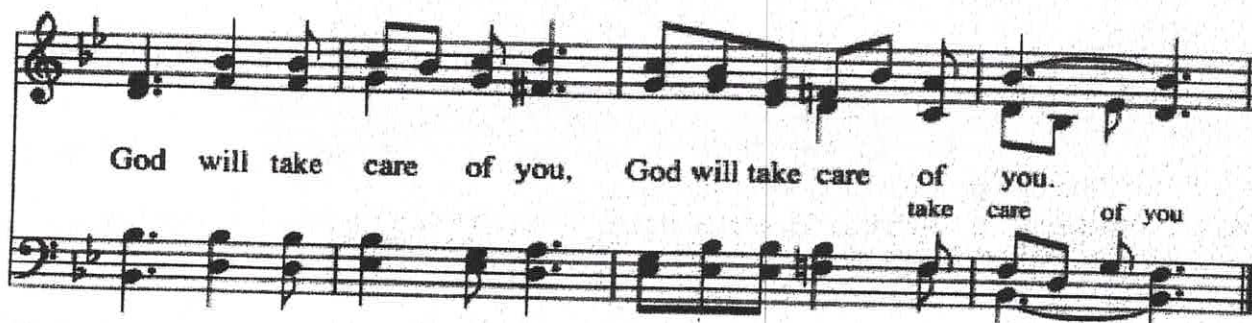


Be-neath God's wings of love a-bide, God will take care of you.
When dan-gers fierce your path as-sail, God will take care of you.
Noth-ing you ask will be de-nied, God will take care of you.
Lean, wea-ry one, up-on God's breast, God will take care of you.

Refrain



God will take care of you, through ev-ery day, o'er all the way;



God will take care of you, God will take care of you.
take care of you

This early hymn by Civilla Martin was written in 1904 and set to music by her husband, a Baptist minister, as a contribution to a songbook he was compiling for a school. This is one of several such collaborations.

Tune: MARTIN C.M. with refrain
W. Sillman Martin, 1905

The Congregation Prays
Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Congregational Response: "Lord hear our prayers." (Response after each Prayer request)
Silent Meditation

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

Pastoral Prayer

Jeff Erno

The Lord's Prayer: (use words most comfortable for you)

Mary Beth Wiechert, Liturgist

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Mary Beth Wiechert, Liturgist
Pages 528 & 529 Old Testament
Page 234 New Testament
Page 109 New Testament

Sermon: "Love and Suffering"

Jeff Erno

*Hymn: "What a Covenant"

Page 4

STATEMENT FAITH

back of red hymnal

Stewardship Message

Announcements

(Be sure to read about up-coming events in the back of the bulletin.)

Offering:

Offertory

***Doxology:** (The tune is found on page 356 of your red hymnal.)

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW...

PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW...

PRAISE GOD, ABOVE, YOU HEAVENLY HOST...

CREATOR, CHRIST AND HOLY GHOST...AMEN.

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

Jeff Erno

Refiner's fire, you purify us and wash us in the waters of our baptism. In gratitude and thanksgiving, we return these gifts to you now, that they may bring hope and light to a world in need. Amen.

*Hymn: "God's Eye is In the Sparrow"

Insert front & back

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*Benediction:

Jeff Erno

One: Once we searched and groped for God in darkness.

Many: Now we reside with Christ in glorious light.

One: Once we lived as if God was far from us.

Many: Now we rejoice each day in God's presence.

One: Once we strove for God's acceptance.

Many: Now we rest secure in God's love.

ALL: AMEN

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the organ part.

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

Matt. 10:26-30; Luke 12:4-7

Civilla D. Martin, c. 1905; alt.

Stanzas, in unison

1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come,
 2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," Christ's ten-der word I hear,
 3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,

Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and
 And rest-ing on God's good-ness, I lose my doubts and
 When song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me

home, When God is ev-er my por-tion? My
 fears; Though by the path . . . God leads me but
 dies, I then draw close to my Sav-ior, from

con-stant friend will be: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 one step I may see: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 care I am set free: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

Civilla Martin, a native of Nova Scotia, assisted her husband in his evangelistic campaigns. Charles Gabriel was editor for Rodeheaver Publishing Company, Chicago, and one of the most popular gospel songwriters of the early 1900s.

Tune: SPARROW IRR.
 Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

COMFORT AND ASSURANCE

know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

Refrain, in harmony

know God watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm
 know God watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm
 know God watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm

hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free, God's
 I'm hap-py, I'm free,

eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

Grace for fellowship hour

Jeff Erno

*Postlude

*We scatter to serve******

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Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Jeff Erno

Liturgist: Mary Beth Wiechert & Janet Caporale

Children's Message: Pastor Liz Wilson

Choir Director: Ken Martin

Accompanist: Ann McKinley

Our Tech team: Tammy & Ken Martin

Floral Arrangements: A gift created by Amy Wilson

Ministers: All the Immanuel Church faith community

Sunday School: Amy Wilson, Liz Wilson, Susanne Waldrep

Church Officers & Staff

Moderator: Ken Martin

Vice Moderator: TBA

Treasurer: Art Nagasaki

Council Secretary: Susanne Waldrep

Clerk: Susanne Waldrep

Church Secretary: Sue Molczyk

Building & Grounds Team Leader: TBA

Calendar at a Glance

Weekly Events

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship & Fellowship

5:30 p.m. Community Meal every Tuesday

5:00 p.m. Wednesday Free Meals

7:00 p.m. Wednesday Choir practice

6:00 p.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting

4:00 p.m. Mondays "True Colorz"
LGBTQ+ Support Group

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day Church office closed

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of May:

Birthdays

May 6: Rosemary Plummer

May 6: Douglas (Dougie) Stein

May 8: Kathy Stein

May 21: Brian Plummer

May 22: Suzanne Spiker

May 30: JoJo Hussey

- Please be sure to visit Immanuel's website at www.icucc.org
- Please join us for Sunday Service via Virtual Worship. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/oxfordimmanuelucc> You do not have to join facebook, it will ask if you want to join. If not click no and it will still get you to the service.
- **Treasurer's Note:** Our offerings for May 3 TBA. We need to collect \$1,675 each week to fund our approved budget. **Remember to honor your pledge commitments and tithes, especially when you miss any Sundays!** Art Nagasaki, Treasurer
- REMINDER to bring in old socks & flexible plastic Kroger packaging for recycling. Call Peggy with questions.
- Please continue to collect and donate your pop can tabs. There's a container in Fellowship Hall. Pop can tabs help support the Ronald McDonald Houses where parents can stay when their child is hospitalized. Tammy will be sending our donation later in May to the Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor.
- Knitters, crocheters and crafters: If you need yarn for projects, we have a wide variety of colors and types in our craft room downstairs. Just let Tammy or Ken know

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2026

John 14:15-21

Witness of Love

When asked to sum up the Christian faith, Karl Barth, the Swiss Reformed theologian who published his multi-volume theological summa and magnum opus known as *Church Dogmatics*, did not reply with an equally extensive, deep-dive answer. Rather Barth was uncharacteristically short in his summation, replying simply, “The most profound truth I have ever known is this: Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

Love. It is the heart of the Gospel, and it really is all we need in the world. Love is the very essence of God. So, when Jesus, before finally ending his post-resurrection Earthy tour to take his place at the right hand of God, tells his friends, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” he was pointing to the greatest commandment of all: To love one another.

Loving others as Jesus loved was the very mandate he gave to the 12 who were gathered in the Upper Room on what we now observe as Maundy Thursday. In Latin, maundy means “mandate.” So, Jesus wasn’t suggesting but mandating that we love even when friends hurt and deceive us, just as Judas did after hearing Jesus speak those “love” words. Love through the betrayals. Love through the tears. Love through the gunk in life.

How are we doing with being the great witnesses of love in the world these days? Is love just lip service or are our actions speaking louder than all-too empty sentiments? Are we loving with the unselfish and non-judgmental love of God? Are we letting the love of God infiltrate political camps, dismantle harmful ideologies and remove the hateful distrust of all those who look or think differently than us? For that, my friends, is the love Jesus speaks of. It’s a love he shows you and me — always. It’s time we start witnessing to that kind of love.

Holy and Ever-Present God, may this day we become the powerful witnesses to Your love, caring for others as Your Son taught us by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, befriending the lonely, tending the sick, and visiting those who are imprisoned. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s Sunday Bulletin.)

