

CLOSING HYMN

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



St. Paul UCC



"No matter who you are,
No matter where you
are on life's journey,
You are welcome here."

stpaulucc.org

Welcome

Sunday, October 11, 2026 ~ 9am
20th Sunday after Pentecost



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Supply Pastor **Rev. Joan H. Mier**
Director of Music **Dr. Tristan Frampton**
Organist **Cynthia Johnson**
Liturgist **Stephenie Bauza**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Near to the Heart of God
Tune: McAfee
arr. Stan Pethel

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Here, we gather to be in the presence of all that is holy, healing, and hope-filled.

People: We pray to be united with Christ in this time together, side-by-side as brothers and sisters with Jesus.

Leader: We are invited to enter into this time of worship, to come into a closer communion with God, to feel that divine embrace.

People: We seek a greater union with all that is sacred, all that can be offered to us through the amazing grace of God.

ALL: Let us offer our worship and praise to our God, the giver of hope to the hopeless, comfort to the grieving, and healing of the wounds that we carry. Let it be so. Amen

*INVOCATION (Unison)

We love you Lord and we lift our voices to offer praise and to rest in your loving embrace, just for a while. We humble ourselves in your presence, waiting upon the touch of the Holy Spirit in this time of worship. Help us feel the touch of the divine within us and around us, we pray. Amen

PASSING THE PEACE

GOD'S EYE IS ON THE SPARROW, CONT



OPENING HYMN

475 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

OPENING HYMN

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

(see pages 6 & 7)

PRAYER FOR REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION

Pastor: Sometimes, because of what we need to say to Jesus, our eyes well up with tears. Sometimes they even pour down our face, but Jesus is the One who will wipe away every tear from your face. May you feel the touch of Christ as we share with him in this moment. As I cannot put words into your mouth in regard to what you need to say to God, I can only welcome you into this sacred moment and then, afterward, I will offer the Words of Grace.

Silent Confession and Reconciliation

WORDS OF GRACE

We come, just as we are to Jesus. He is our precious Savior, our Guide, and Friend. When we speak to him from the depths of our hearts, He listens; He acknowledges, and chooses just the right time to act—to offer forgiveness. Thanks be to our precious Lord for such grace. **Amen**

ANTHEM

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
arr. Jack Best
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 25:1-9
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Stephenie Bauza
Stephenie Bauza
Rev. Joan H. Mier

SERMON

"Wipe Away the Tears"

Rev. Joan H. Mier

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

REFLECTION ON GIVING

Have you ever felt the presence of Christ with you, or the touch of the Holy Spirit? There is nothing in this world like that touch of gentle love and acceptance. We give today because we truly want others to feel that same love and acceptance. Let us give from our hearts and hands to Christ's ministry filled with peace, hope, and love. Amen.

RECEIVING OF THE GIFTS AND OFFERTORY MUSIC
A Prayer of Need
by Penny Rodriguez
“My love is weak, my heart imperfect, so I have great need of You.”
– from a prayer by Thomas à Kempis

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: Old Hundreth)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ in who God’s grace we know
Praise Spirit, with us evermore
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)
You are so gracious to us, O’ Lord our God, bringing comfort to us when our hearts are stinging from the wounds that others have inflicted upon us. Therefore, in thanksgiving, accept these gifts for Christ’s ministry, that many others might be touched by the knowledge of His great love for them. We pray this to be so in His name. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN Be Not Dismayed (see page 8)

*COMMISSIONING
Go forth, beloved in Christ, and act like Jesus, be willing to offer comfort and to wipe the tears from the faces of the hurting and grieving souls God places before you. Be gentle and kind in the ministry that you offer to this community, the greater community, and the world. Amen

*BENEDICTION
Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Amen

POSTLUDE
Voluntary in B minor
by George Frideric Handel



OCTOBER

Worship Leaders

October 4 - Rev. Joan H. Mier

October 11 - Rev. Joan H. Mier

October 18 - Craig Bielke

October 25 - Rev. Jeremy Lopez

OCTOBER

Coffee Hour Host Schedule:

October 4 – Zoey Davenport
October 11 – Donna Davis
October 18 –
October 25 – Mona Scheibel

Please consider being a coffee hour host !

It takes about 15–20 min to set up. Have coffee ready by 10:00 a.m. Last coffee call 11:00 a.m. Printed instructions & assistance are always available.

Contact the office or Donna D. to sign up!

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For Your Prayers

Carol Hotz & Fred Hotz
The Ritter family, Tim, Sandy & Tim Jr.
Lou Ann Niemann
Al Stahl
Laura Sadler
Alec Zaber
Jane Bonaldi
Paul Sutherland
Our Pastor Search Committee
Cathy Blaies and family (Mike’s sister)
Sylvia, sister of Luci Bradley
Rich Wilburn and his family,
son-in-law of Stephenie Bauza
Stephen Agnew, son of Carolyn Hazelip
Gay Eckert
Larry Walton
Jane Peters, sister of Jerry Pierce
Bette Ettling
The Gentry family
Wes Krummrich
Daniel Holtzclaw, friend of the Birkners
Gerry Hough

Please call the office for prayer requests. 618-233-3303

Weekly Offerings	10/3/2026
Operating	\$ 3,513.00
Building Fund	\$ 305.00
	\$ 3,818.00
Giving YTD	\$ 285,088.64
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,974.00
Budget to Date	\$ 271,986.00
Total Budget	\$ 362,648.00

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service		
September 27, 2026	81	+ Online Participants
September 28, 2025	96	+ Online Participants