

DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC
an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 1, 2024

10:00 a.m.

In essentials, unity. In nonessentials, liberty. In all things, charity. (Early disciples' motto, attributed to Rupertus Melonius)

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Wachet Auf”

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

*Call to Worship

based on Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, we lift our souls.

O God, in you we put our trust.

Make us to know your ways,

Open our hearts and teach us.

You are the God of our salvation,

For you we wait all day long

Good and upright is the Lord.

We are mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love.

O God in you we put our trust.

* Hymn #125

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.

From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.

You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;

dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.

Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,

born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.

By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts along;

by your all-sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

*Invocation

O Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near.

Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand

with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

Advent Candle Liturgy

When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. So many neighbors, nearby and around the world, will go to bed hungry tonight...

When we look around, we see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer — and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight...

In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope...

In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope...

The first candle is lit.

Choral Response “Christ, Be Our Light”

Choir: *Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.*

Congregation:

***Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

Melody

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

G Dsus4 D Em Em7/D C Am7 D G Am7/G G

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to - day.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major. The first staff is labeled 'Melody' and contains the lyrics: 'Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.' The second staff contains the lyrics: 'Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to - day.' Above the second staff are guitar chords: G, Dsus4, D, Em, Em7/D, C, Am7, D, G, Am7/G, G. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

May the light from this candle shine bright around the world.

May the light from this candle say to all, that God’s hope is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

Friends, be not afraid, God’s hope is at hand!

Amen!

Offering/Offertory

“O Come, Emmanuel”
Elizabeth Schultze, cello

Elaine Hagenberg

*Doxology

***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. Amen.***

Call to Confession:

With confidence in God's mercy,
Let us confess the ways we have turned from God.

Prayer of Confession

Holy One of God, forgive us for we are quick to stray. We seek that which does not bring us fulfillment. We acknowledge that in this season of giving, we are tempted by that which is made by human hands. Help us, O God, to remain faithful to you. Keep us ever focused on all that is eternal – on love, mercy, and faithfulness. Direct our sights to Jesus, to his birth, to his mission and message. To the glory of God Almighty. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

The Lord is just and righteous. The Lord will save us from the ways of sin. Believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! And God will strengthen our hearts in holiness. Amen.

Scripture Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16

Homily "Hope is Subversive"

*Hymn #124 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Verses 1 & 4

***Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.***

***At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, God most high!"***

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and good to give God thanks and praise.

Sanctus

***Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord.***

Words of Institution and Blessing of Elements

Choral Response

***The gifts of God for the people of God! Come now, for all is prepared!
The gifts of God for the people of God! The Gospel is among us.***

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Please hold each element so we can partake together as a congregation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, for the Advent journey to the manger and the table, for your bread of hope, your cup of blessing, for the anticipation of and the gift of Jesus born in us over and over again, we give you thanks and praise. Send us now into the world to share this good news with all. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Joys and Concerns of the Community

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

**+O Holy One, 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. Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

(+Our Creator, Father)

*Hymn #122

"Comfort, Comfort You My People"

***Comfort, comfort you my people, tell of peace, thus says our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak to you Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.***

***For the herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,
bidding us to make repentance since the reign of God is here.
O that warming cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.***

***Make you straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of our God now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.***

*Sending Forth

God said to those in exile,
**“Surely I know the plans I have for you,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.”**

Before we leave this time of worship let us greet one another with the peace of Jesus the Christ, who is the light that breaks into our darkness and is our hope and salvation.
Let us share in this shalom with one another.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you. (Please turn and acknowledge those around you).

*Benediction

Recessional

“Aberystwyth”

Wilbur Held

The congregation may remain seated during the postlude or depart.

***Please stand in body or spirit.** Music reproduced with permission: *One License #8-730116*. Portions of our liturgy today are from *Feasting on the Word Advent Companion* and *Abingdon Women’s Preaching Annual I-C*. Candle lighting liturgy adapted from saltproject.org

We are glad you have joined us today for worship, for we are the church whether we are gathered or scattered. Please feel free to contact the church at 508-385-3543 if you have any concerns, prayer requests, or desire a pastoral call.

Deacon of the Day: Peter Berrien
Ushers & Greeters: Jeff Gordon, Marla Ker, Karen Mutti,
Nancy & Paul Schuster, Lisa Sherman
Advent Candle Lighting: the Furey Family

Flowers are given today by Bob and Carol Michel
“In loving memory of Harry & Dorothy Arlanson and Fred & Ruth Michel”

DY-ECH CARDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

If you would like to purchase gift cards for your holiday list, consider purchasing cards from DY-ECH. A list of available cards is on the hallway bulletin board – some are readily available during Fellowship Hour; some will need to be ordered.

A percentage of the value of each card is donated to HAC’s program to prevent homelessness on the Cape – making your gift \$\$ an additional benefit to the community.

HELP AT THE HOLIDAY STROLL NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday December 8 - after church until about 3 pm - will be our community's cherished Christmas tradition, the Dennis Stroll. We will be participating in this splendid event by welcoming the community to our congregation to make Christmas Swags and Cookies.

We would **love** for you to volunteer to welcome our neighbors and help to make some Christmas keepsakes. You can email Evy at [dennisunion.evy@gmail](mailto:dennisunion.evy@gmail.com) or sign up in the entry way to lend a hand. Here is what we need:

Swag Decorating:

- Volunteers to help & assist guests to put swags together, use the hot glue gun, and snip Christmas greens.
- Collect Christmas greens beforehand. Most places that sell Christmas Trees have scraps from when they cut off the bottoms and they are usually free. Please don't pay for them - the Patriot Square lot in Dennis where they sell trees always has a pile for the taking - you just have to ask!

Cookie Decorating:

- Assist in helping guests decorate sugar cookies.
- Donate blank sugar cookies.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

Mark your calendars! The annual and much-loved DUC Christmas Cookie Sale will take place on SATURDAY, December 14 beginning at 10:00 am and continuing until we are sold out (usually by noon).

Boxes of two dozen assorted cookies will be on sale for \$15 for the first box and \$10 for each subsequent box. For this to be the big success it has traditionally been, we need buyers and BAKERS!!! Get out your favorite cookie recipes or try out a new one!

Cookies should be brought to the church on FRIDAY, December 13 between 9:00 and 11:00 AM. Please bring them in a disposable container if possible. And please NO NUTS! Gluten-free cookies are most welcome. Peanut butter cookies are also welcome; we will just pack some peanut butter free boxes. Delivery and purchase of cookies will take place just inside the door nearest the church office. All proceeds of the sale will benefit our mission in Colombia.

Dennis Union Church
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Ministers: All the people
Pastor: Rev. Nancy S. McHugh
Director of Music: Margaret Bossi
Director of Children and Family Ministries: Open
Interim Sunday School Leader: Evy Sirignano
Finance Secretaries: Elise Gordon and Steven Kuhrtz
Office Administrator: Jane Wilson
Sexton: Dave Crocker