

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 17, 2024**

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

"Festive Scherzo"

Malcolm Archer

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

\*Call to Worship

We, who are thirsty, long for water.

**God will cause water to spring up for us.**

We, who are weak, long for strength.

**God will strengthen our hearts and bodies.**

We, who are broken, long for restoration.

**God will be bringing the pieces of our world together.**

Let us Imagine Together:

**A World Made Whole.**

\*Hymn #695

"God of the Fertile Fields"

Verses 1, 2 & 3

*God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread;  
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
that all in ev'ry land be clothed and fed.*

*We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;  
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care  
for people everywhere, that all may live.*

*As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, your reign yet grows.  
So let our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,  
no humble task refused your love bestows.*

\*Invocation

God of healing and hope, we hear your challenge to *Imagine Together*.

But *Imagining* can be a difficult task for many of us. *Imagining Together* is even more challenging where there are barriers between us.

Help us in working together for the healing of the world around us.

**Without imagination and without togetherness, we are lost and broken. Holy One, we need your radical strength, so that miracles may happen in our midst; that people may come together across divides, and that the very earth itself may be made whole. Amen.**

Word for the Young

Anthem "All God's People Come Together" Pepper Choplin

Stewardship Moment

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, it is so easy for us to focus on what is broken, lamenting that it may never be fixed. Forgive us when our laments turn to obsessions that hold us down and make brokenness a self-fulfilling prophecy. Remind us that you are a God who restores. Renew our hearts for imagination again today. Amen.**

Silence

Words of Grace

Restoration is part of God's plan for us. God is healing the broken pieces of our lives and communities, causing flowers to spring up in deserts and making weak hands strong. **Let us give thanks for the incredible gift of God's power and love. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 55:1-5

New Testament Reading Matthew 14:13-21

Homily "Nothing but..."

\*Hymn #538 "Hope of the World" Verses 1 & 2

***Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion:  
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;  
save us, your people, from consuming passion,  
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.***

***Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven  
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:  
still let your Spirit unto us be given  
to heal earth's wounds and end its bitter strife.***

Offerings of the People

Offertory "Herzlich tut mich verlangen" F.W. Zachau

\*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.*

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 Father/God/Creator)

\*Hymn #714

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God;  
for good gifts of every nation, thanks be to God;  
for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.*

*In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;  
in our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.*

*For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God,  
for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

\*Sending Forth

The Spirit of God is upon us.

**God has anointed us to bear good news to the afflicted  
and to bind up the broken-hearted.**

To proclaim freedom to the captives.

**To open the prisons of those who are bound.**

Before we leave this time of worship let us greet one another with the peace of Jesus the Christ, who seeks peace in broken relationships, who seeks healing in alienated persons, who seeks justice in oppressive structures.

**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

“Fantasia in C”

J.S. Bach

*The congregation is welcome to leave quietly or stay seated and listen.*

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**\*Please stand in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116. Today’s liturgy is adapted from UCC Stewardship material written by Rev. Amber Neuroth.

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome at Dennis Union Church. Please feel free to contact the church at 508-385-3543 if you have any concerns, prayer requests, or desire a pastoral call.

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Deacon of the Day: Joe Hesse

Ushers & Greeters: Dottie Damon, Marla Ker, John & Suzanne Paulson,  
Ann & Lloyd Swaim, Earl Springer

Flowers are given today by Sarah Kruger  
“In loving memory of Anne, Arthur, Jeff, David, and Bob Stout”

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### **A note from Evy**

Make sure to sign up for our All-Church Family Game & Pizza Night! Let us know if you would like to bring a side dish or dessert to share! There is also a sign-up sheet by the office!  
It will be a fun night filled with Games, Food, and Fellowship,  
plus we'll be making one big Gingerbread House!

Would you like to help with Sunday School? We're in need of a volunteer each Sunday to help with the class. Evy will run the lesson and you'll get to enjoy our kiddos!  
Please see Evy about dates help is needed in the coming weeks.

### **Keep the coffee and conversation coming!**

Sign up now to host Fellowship Hour after worship – goodies from those who like to bake are welcome – but store-bought is just fine!  
The chance to gather and visit is the important thing.

An experienced “host” will help show you the ropes of the coffee makers, etc.  
Also -- volunteers to usher and greet our congregation on Sunday morning are needed.  
Sign up now for the weeks leading to Christmas –  
check the clipboards next to the office window.

## **Dennis Union Church Open and Affirming Covenant of Welcome**

*Believing that everyone is a child of God, it is with joy, and in the love of Christ, that we welcome all persons into the full life, ministry and mission of Dennis Union Church. We choose not to turn away anyone whom Christ would welcome. We affirm the dignity and worth of every person including, but not limited to, people of every race, ethnicity, age, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, family structure or economic circumstance. We celebrate God's creative love shown in the wide diversity of humanity and the unique gifts each of us brings to the world. It is our intention to love one another as Christ has loved us.*



**Dennis Union Church**  
**713 Main Street (Route 6A at Old Bass River Rd.)**  
**Dennis, Massachusetts 02638**  
**508-385-3543 [www.duchurch.org](http://www.duchurch.org)**

**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 Steve Kuhrtz**  
**Office Administrator: Jane Wilson**  
**Sexton: Dave Crocker**