

DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Twentieth-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 3, 2024

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

arr. Dale Wood

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 146)

Praise the Lord! Let us praise the Lord as long as we live.

Sing praises to God,

Who made heaven and earth,

Who is faithful forever,

Who gives justice to the oppressed,

Who gives food to the hungry,

Who sets the prisoners free,

Who watches over the stranger,

Who cares for widows and orphans.

The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord!

*Hymn

“Standing at the Future’s Threshold”¹

Tune: Nettleton (“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”)

Stand-ing at the fu-ture’s thresh-old, grate-ful for God’s guid-ing hand,

Ask-ing no pro-tect-ed strong-hold, called to be a pil-grim band,

Seek-ing ev-er for new vi-sion of the gos-pel for our day,

We move for-ward in God’s mis-sion with our faith to show the way.

Build-ing jus-tice as the bul-wark of the peace that God would give,

Mak-ing sac-ri-fice the hall-mark of the life we’re called to live:

Grant us, God, to bear our wit-ness to this peace in Christ and move

For-ward with our faith’s own ac-cess to the life of hope and love.

Je-sus Christ, e-ter-nal Sav-ior, Source of life and truth and grace,

We would ask no spe-cial fa-vor, with the low-liest seek our place,

Know the in-as-much of serv-ing, have your cross as our com-mand:

Lead us in the faith un-swerv-ing for-ward as your pil-grim band.

*Invocation

Gracious God, draw near to us with compassion, touch us with healing, and speak to us with love, so that we may arise and live to spread the good news of your saving power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem

“For He Is Our Peace”

Philip Stopford

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Prayer of Confession

We are blind to our brokenness yet focused on the failings of others. We are deaf to the cries of those who need us, numb to the need of those who hurt. We are silent when words are needed, impotent when action is required. Lord, hear our struggle, be tender with our brokenness, speak life and grace to our weary souls.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

Beloved, hear the good news: through Christ we are forgiven!
**Our hope is in the Lord our God, who keeps faith with us forever.
God’s mercy is everlasting!**

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 46

The musical score for Psalm 46 is written in 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has the lyrics "Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that" with chord symbols C, G⁷, C, and F above it. The bass clef part has a corresponding bass line. The second system starts at measure 7 and has the lyrics "I am God. Be still and know that I am God." with chord symbols D/F#, G, C, F, C, F, C, G⁷, and C above it. The bass clef part continues with a bass line.

Response

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations rage, dominions totter; God speaks, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Israel is our refuge.

Response

Come, behold the works of the LORD, who has brought desolations on the earth;
**who makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
who breaks the bow, shatters the spear; and burns the shields with fire.**
“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Israel is our refuge.

Response

Scripture Reading 1 Kings 17: 1-24
Homily “Ubuntu” - I am Because We Are”
*Hymn #409 “I Hunger and I Thirst”

***I hunger and I thirst; Jesus, my manna be!
O living waters, burst out of the rock for me!***
***O bruised and broken Bread, my lifelong needs supply.
As living souls are fed, so feed me, or I die.***
***O true life-giving Vine, let me your goodness prove.
By your life sweeten mine, refresh my soul with love.***
***For still the desert lies behind me and before:
O living waters, rise within me evermore!***

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 Thanksgiving²

God, let the unity we have at this table endure long after we have digested these elements. Feed our minds the manna of gentleness and the ability to take another's perspective. Juice us with the joy that comes when we can set aside our differences and come together as your children. Thank you that every time we eat this meal together, you give us an opportunity to lay down arms, stop taking sides, and find again our common humanity and divinity. Amen.

Offerings of the People

Offertory

"O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig"

James Melby

*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

+Our Creator, 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/O Holy One)

*Hymn #683

"O for a World"

Verses 1, 3 & 4

***O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.***

***We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.***

***The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.***

*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

“Aus meines Herzens Grunde”

Johann Hanff

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

***Please stand in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116. Portions of liturgy today from *Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion Year C, Vol. 2* K. Bracken Long. ¹ Hymn from worship service at General Synod, 2013, Long Beach, California. Great Thanksgiving prayer by Liz Miller ² Prayer of Thanksgiving written by Molly Phinney Baskette in *Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living*, edited by Mary Luti.

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.

Deacon of the Day: Peter Berrien
Ushers and Greeters: Stephen Higgins, Judy November, Lisa Sherman
Elise & Jeff Gordon, Marla Ker

Flowers are given today by the Flower Committee

Prayers for the Season

The DUC Prayer Group invites you to join them in prayer twice each day at 8 am and 5 pm for our election workers and for peace within our nation.

A time for meditation and prayer will be held in the DUC sanctuary between 7 and 8 pm on Tuesday, November 5.

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
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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
Sunday School Leader: Evy Sirignano
Finance Secretaries: Elise Gordon and Steve Kuhrtz
Office Administrator: Jane Wilson
Sexton: Dave Crocker