

Dennis Union Church, UCC
an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ
With Congregational Church of South Dennis

Celebrates Music Sunday

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candle

the Burney Family

When I look around, I see shadows of sadness, families who have lost loved ones,
people in prison, people who are isolated and feel on their own...

**When we look around, we see shadows of grief, people dreading the holidays
because of painful memories, or because they don't want to spend
another Christmas alone...**

In the face of sadness, we light a candle of joy...

In the face of grief, in the face of loss, we light a candle of joy...

The third candle is lit.

Choral Response

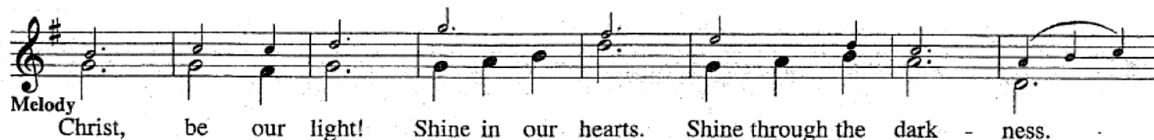
"Christ, Be Our Light"

Choir: *Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.*

Congregation:

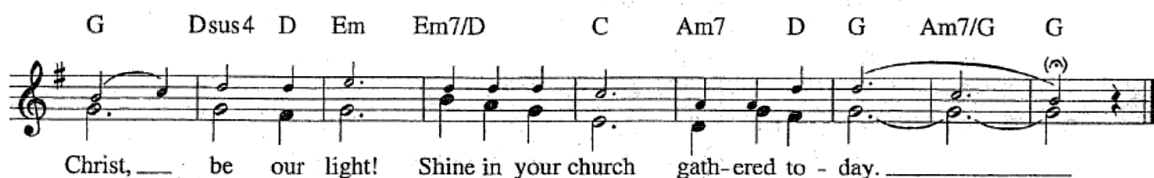
***Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

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.

May the light from this candle shine bright around the world.
**May the light from this candle say to all that God's joy is coming,
on earth as it already is in heaven.**
Friends, be not afraid, God's joy is at hand!
Amen!

Children Invited to Go to Sunday School

"Canticle of Joy" by Joseph Martin

"A Call to Christmas"

Based on the Wexford Carol - Solo, Zachary Johnson

Candle of Preparation *"Prepare!"*

Candle of Anticipation *"Could This Be the Day?"*
Incorporating "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Candle of Visitation *"Interlude 1"*
Solo, Ellen Sheetz

"Songs of the Promise"
Incorporating "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" and "Tomorrow Will Be My Dancing Day"
Solo, Grayson Burney

Candle of Incarnation *"Interlude 2"*
Solo, Zachary Johnson

"Carols of the Manger"

Candle of Adoration *"Away in a Manger"*
Solo, Grayson Burney

Candle of Declaration *"Awake! Sing Gloria!"*

Call for the Offering

Offertory *"Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"* Blue Hymnal #138

***Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning,
sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.***

***In deepset night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the silent join in song, the tired shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
may God fill ev'ry day we share, and bring us at last into glory.***

Prayer of Dedication

Joy and Concerns of the Community

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

O world, feel! Do not sleep –

For the realm of God now draws near.

The warmth of God's face will shine upon us.

Its peace will fall upon the world's warring spirits.

The word of God's mouth will vanquish and subdue all violence;

its wisdom will baptize every foolish word from our lips.

The strength of God's arm will move among us;

its gentle, reviving power will renew tired hands.

The love of God's heart will rise up within us;

its mercy will still and comfort every troubled soul.

Hear us now as we pray as you have taught us:

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

(+Creator God/O Holy One)

"Canticle of Joy" Part 2

Candle of Revelation

"Interlude 3"

Solo, Ellen Sheetz

"We Are His Gold"

Candle of Proclamation

"In Every Land Begin the Song"

Candle of Consecration

"Carol of the Faithful"

Incorporating "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Hymn #129

"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

***Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.***

***Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.***

***Redeemer, come! We open wide our hearts to you; here, Christ, abide!
Let us your inner presence feel, your grace and love in us reveal.***

***So come, our Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;
your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.***

*Benediction

*Please stand in body or spirit. Music reproduced with permission: *One License #8-730116.*

Candle lighting liturgy adapted from saltproject.org.

Participants: Choirs and friends; Zachary Johnson, baritone; Grayson Burney, soprano;
Ellen Sheetz, mezzo; Donald Enos, piano

Deacon of the Day: Heath Burney

Ushers & Greeters: Peter Berrien, Dottie Damon, Darlene Fisk, Annmarie Gavin,
Marla Ker, Lisa Sherman

Advent Candle Lighters: Heath, Christina, Grayson and Sam Burney

Flowers are given today by Priscilla Hutchinson

“In loving memory of my parents William and Isabel Hutchinson”

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 the HAC’s program to prevent homelessness on the Cape – making your gift \$\$ an additional benefit to the community.

Introduction to “Canticle of Joy”

Is it not a profound blessing that we celebrate our Lord’s birth in December?

It always comes at just the right time: in the bleak of winter when days are shorter, nights are colder and memories of springtime are fading. It is then that Christmas comes sweeping into our lives with song and celebration. Against the silence of our spiritual winter, heaven’s song of joy leaps into hearts with angelic alleluias and jubilant glorias!

This special time connects us all with our shared heritage of song and light. When trees stand barren against the sky, it grants us a clearer vision. When the night is silent, it is our lullaby of peace. Let the music of Christmas reawaken the promise of God’s presence and love in our lives and remind each of us that our faith is a song worth singing – a Canticle of Joy that is made all the more glorious when it is shared.

Joseph M. Martin

The music for “Canticle of Joy” was purchased in 2010 thanks to a gift to the Memorial Committee by Ann Goulding in memory of her mother Beth Goulding.

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

Pastor: Rev. Nancy S. McHugh
Director of Music: Margaret Bossi
Interim Sunday School Leader: Evy Sirignano

Congregational Church of South Dennis
216A Main Street
South Dennis, Massachusetts 02660
508-394-5992 congregationalchurchofsouthdennis.com

Pastor: Rev. Deborah Mahaney
Director of Music/Organist: Donald Enos