

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 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

“March of the Three Kings”

French carol, arr. Bill Ingram

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

*Call to Worship

Holy One, light of peace, shine in us to prepare your way.

Prepare a way to come to us; redeem us in our darkness.

Prepare your way around us, that the crooked be made straight.

Prepare your way within us, that our rough places be made smooth.

God of grace and love, may all flesh see your salvation.

Alleluia!

*Hymn #135

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

*Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.*

*The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.*

*Now from the house of David a child of grace has come,
a Savior who will lead us to our eternal home.*

*Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.*

*On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!*

*Invocation

**God of life, the prophet cries that a way be made for the coming of the Holy One.
Make a way into our hearts. Speak to us and re-create us. We throw open
the windows of our souls, that we may hear you, that the light of your dawning
may flood our hearts. O come, thou Dayspring, enlighten us, who sit in darkness
and the shadow of death.**

Because of war, because of violence in our communities,
because there is still so much unrest in our hearts, we light a candle of peace...
**Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords
have not yet been remade into ploughshares, we light a candle of peace.**

The second candle is lit.

Choral Response “Christ, Be Our Light”

Choir: *Longing for Peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.*

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 peace is coming,
on earth as it already is in heaven.**
Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!
Amen!

Children depart for Sunday School

Anthem “Angels We Have Heard on High”
 French carol, arr. Dale Wood

Contemporary Reading “Prepare” written by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Scripture Lesson Luke 3: 1-14

Homily “The Way”

*Hymn # 134

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

sing through twice

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“In Dulci Jubilo”

German carol, arr. Dale Wood

*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

**+God, Mother and Father of us all, 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/Creator/O Holy One)**

*Hymn #140

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Verses 1, 2 & 4

***Hail to the Lord’s anointed, great David’s greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captives free,
to take away transgressions, and rule in equity.***

***He comes with justice speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.***

***To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his knigdome still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever; that name to us is Love.***

*Sending Forth

May the God of justice be your path,
the Lord of mercy be your guide
and the Spirit of love be your light.

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).

Recessional

“Silent Night”

Grüber, arr. Dale Wood

The congregation may remain seated during the postlude or depart.

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

Candle lighting liturgy adapted from saltproject.org. “Prepare” written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes; other liturgy resources adapted from his writings on unfoldinglight.com. Sending Forth adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Year C Vol. 1*, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.

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 concerns, prayer requests, or desire a pastoral call.

Deacon of the Day: Earl Springer

Ushers & Greeters: Linda Gillespie, Jeff Gordon, Ted & Margaret Housman,
Brian & Cathy McGuinness

Advent Candle Lighters: the Graf Family
Edie, Scott & Mairead, Parker and Eliza

Flowers are given today by Elise and Jeff Gordon
“In loving memory of Elise's parents Ken and June Larson”

Dennis Stroll: Today after church!

Come join Evy and helpers make evergreen swags and decorate cookies with Stroll visitors.

TUESDAY AT 7 PM - SERVICE OF HOPE AND LIGHT

Our Service of Hope and Light acknowledges that Christmas can be a difficult time. It can challenge us for many reasons like a recent personal loss, feeling depressed or separated from loved ones, memories of painful past Christmases, or a feeling of intense disconnection from the prevailing celebratory feeling of Christmas.

This time and space apart from the hype of our commercial Christmas offers an opportunity to experience a sacred presence amidst our lives which are sometimes awkward, uncomfortable, and messy. Please contact the office by Monday if you need a ride to this evening service or if you can provide a ride for someone (it will also be streamed online.)

May peace be with you in this season of light and hope.

CHILDRENS' MINISTRY IN DECEMBER

Sunday School Assistants: We need an assistant each Sunday in the classroom as extra eyes, ears and hands and would love to have you join the fun! If you need a CORI Check, you can fill out a form with Jane. We will need an updated CORI that is issued through DUC to be able to volunteer. Please email Evy at dennisunion.evy@gmail.com to volunteer.

Can you be the assistant for December 29 this month?

Also, we need a volunteer who would like to be a "back up" on the rare occasion Evy can't make it to church on a Sunday morning unexpectedly due to one of her kiddos being under the weather. We would have a lesson plan all set for you -- you would serve as a Sub for the day. Interested? Please see Evy.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

The message of Christmas — of light coming into a world of darkness — is a message that is needed this year as much as ever before.

We hope you will join us on Christmas Eve for one of the worship services:

Children's Pageant at 4 p.m.

Our children and young people will be sharing the story of baby Jesus being born with us!

Evening Worship at 7:30 pm

Traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service
with scripture, carols and contemporary readings.

We need Children and Youth for our Christmas Pageant:

All of our children and youth are invited to play a special part in this year's Christmas Pageant on Tuesday December 24! The service begins at 4 pm and we would like to have our young people arrive around 3:30 pm to get ready & dressed. Make sure to sign up in front of the office or email Evy at dennisunion.evy@gmail.com

There will be a rehearsal Sunday December 22 right after church.
We will do a run-through of the pageant so everyone is ready to go.
We also need volunteers to help the kids get ready and help supervise.

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**

**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**