

DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

COMMUNION SUNDAY

February 2, 2025

10:00 a.m.

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Variations on St. Columba”

Bruce Campbell (1948-2011)

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

*Call to Worship

We come seeking the holy love of God, that we may become whole and loving.

As Jesus Christ has shared the life of earth, through Christ we may share the life of God, in growing holiness, justice, and love.

In awe, we rejoice in sharing life with God in Christ.

In thanksgiving, let us worship God.

* Hymn #420

“I Come With Joy”

Verses 1, 2, 3 & 5

*I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.*

*Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.*

*Invocation

Merciful God we have gathered this morning to pause the rapid pace of our daily living. We have come in hopes of being still and mindful of your presence and to respond to the call of discipleship. Draw us closer to you and to each other so that we might gain strength, courage and vision with every passing day on this journey of faith. Amen.

Anthem

“Ubi Caritas”

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful One, as followers in the ways of Jesus, we are always on a journey. On this pilgrimage, there is no time when we can afford to stop growing in love, in strength, and in knowledge of you. So it is that when we gather to worship, we must be honest about those places in which we need to grow, places where we need to redirect our focus and shift our thinking. Lead us in the ways of change so that we might know your grace.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

The good news is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need,
we are given grace to grow and courage to continue the journey.
Thanks be to God!

Scripture Lesson

Luke 6: 1-16

Homily

“What’s the Point?”

*Hymn #426

“The Voice of Jesus Calls His People”

***The voice of Jesus calls his people, “Come to my table and be fed!”
For those who come to him believing, he is the Wine, he is the Bread.
All who are lost, or bear great burdens, all who need comfort or release,
come where the presence of Christ Jesus will nourish us with rest and peace.***

***Children and elders, men and women, whatever color, race or tongue,
in Jesus find themselves united, in him a home where they belong.
We hear your loving voice, O Jesus, we long, we hunger to be fed;
in joy we gather at the table where you are Wine, and you are Bread.***

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

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that Christ may be present as we share this meal, that our eyes may be opened and that we may recognize him in our midst.

Bless this bread and cup and bless us, that in the fullness of time every cup will be filled to overflowing, every table will be one of welcome, and every life will be filled with abundant love. Amen.

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

Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. By the power of your Holy Spirit, unite us with all whom Christ welcomes, that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Offering/Offertory

*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 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.**

(+Our Creator, O Holy One)

*Hymn #454

“Come, Celebrate the Call of God”

*Come, celebrate the call of God that wakens and renews,
and chooses from us, for our good, the bringers of good news.
The Spirit's blessing all ordains to show what God has done,
yet brings to focus and contains the many in the one.*

*A chosen one today replies, and fit and ready stands.
Her calling now we recognize with prayer and loving hands.
A servant leader, truthful friend, we gladly will receive,
to stir and comfort, shake and mend, be glad with us, and grieve.*

*Great Spirit, give her word and breath in Christ to live and speak,
and shield against the powers of death the outcast and the weak,
her flag of faith, above defeats, in heaven's breeze unfurled,
as all her deepest goodness meets the hunger of the world.*

*Sending Forth

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

“Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott”

J.G. Walther (1684-1748)

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 the liturgy this morning come from *Touch Holiness*, Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi.

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: Joe Hesse

Ushers and Greeters: Alyssa Davis, Al & Darlene Fisk, Dennis Goyette,
Steve Higgins, Joe Lynch, Emily Woudenberg

Flowers are given today by Skip & Nancy Walsh

“In loving memory of their parents Charles & Margaret Walsh
and Earl & Katherine Grant”

During worship today, we are pleased to introduce our new Director of Faith Formation for Youth and Adults, Doreen Mayer, and our new Crib Room Attendant Laura Sears.

Along with Evy Sirignano, our Children's Ministries Coordinator who has been with us since the fall, the church now has full staff in our Faith Formation and Sunday School programs. Please say hello when you can; it is very exciting to have new faces and new programs for our youth and children!

YOU'RE INVITED!

If you are curious about what it means to be a member of Dennis Union Church, you are invited to join us for two information sessions -- one after worship TODAY and one on February 9 at 11:30 am.

New members will be received during worship on February 23. Please see Rev. McHugh or call the church office if you are interested in participating and can't attend today's meeting.

Black History Month at DUC

**"Icons of the Civil Rights Movement"
commemorating heroes of the ongoing struggle to end racism.**

Art and writings by David Purdy and Pamela Chatterton-Purdy are on display in the main hallway; the Purdys will also speak at the Racial Justice Group meeting on Thursday, Feb. 6 at 9 am in Fellowship Hall.

"Tales of Transatlantic Freedom" with soprano Andrea Baker

Pre-concert Forum Thursday, February 6 at 7 pm
Concert Saturday, February 8 at 3 pm

Proceeds to benefit the Rose Conservatory in Brockton
Andrea will also provide music for worship on Sunday, February 9

**Dennis Union Church Annual Meeting
Saturday, February 8, 2025 10:00 a.m.**

According to the By-Laws of Dennis Union Church, the 159th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary for the following purposes:

1. To receive annual reports of officers, boards and committees.
2. To adopt a budget for 2025.
3. To elect officers, board and committee members.
4. To transact any and all other business that would normally be considered.

Deborah Clemence, Clerk

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 Faith Formation for Youth & Adults: Doreen Mayer

Children's Ministries Coordinator: Evy Sirignano

Finance Secretaries: Elise Gordon and Vicki Marchant

Office Administrator: Jane Wilson

Sexton: Dave Crocker

Crib Room Attendant: Laura Sears