

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

**First Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 12, 2025**

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

arr. Linker/McFadden

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

\*Call to Worship

As Jesus stood in the Jordan's muddy waters,  
**we come with all the unclear and muddy things in our life to worship.**  
As Jesus waded into the water so that John could baptize him,  
**we, too wade into the waters of God's amazing grace.**  
As Jesus trusted the spirit of God to wash over him,  
**we trust in the power and presence of God to open our hearts and minds.**  
As Jesus left the Jordan to give his life to God,  
**we go into the world to bear witness to the good news of God's love.**

\*Hymn #66

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Verses 1, 2 & 4

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praises we render: O help us to see  
that only the splendor of light hideth thee.*

\*Invocation

**O Holy One, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, the heavens opened,  
the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing  
of humanity and all creation. By water and the word, you lovingly invite us**

**into the same life-giving mission. May your Spirit, moving like a stream of water flowing from its source, work in us this day to realize your vision of a world made new in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Word for the Young

Call to Confession

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer:**

Prayer of Confession

The voice of God is powerful; the God of glory thunders;  
the voice of God flashes forth flames of fire.

**Before this God, we humbly bow and confess  
that we have not lived in the freedom of our baptism.**

We have not loved God as God loves us; we have not loved  
our neighbors as we are bidden.

**As you ordered the chaos of creation, so order the chaos of our lives.  
Speak to us tender words of love and forgiveness. Amen.**

Assurance of Grace

God speaks again and again words of love and forgiveness,  
“you are my children, my beloved, with you I am well pleased.”  
Hear these words and go in peace, our sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Gospel Reading                      Luke 3:21-23 and 4:1-13

Homily                                      “Serving God”

\*Hymn #245                              “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

***Like the murmur of the dove’s song, like the challenge of her flight,  
like the vigor of the wind’s rush, like the new flame’s eager might:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.***

***To the members of Christ’s body, to the branches of the Vine,  
to the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.***

***With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,  
with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.***

Offerings of the People

Offertory                                      “Berceuse from the ‘Dolly’ Suite “

Fauré, arr. Benton

\*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

***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

**+Creator God, 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/O Holy One)

\*Hymn #439

“God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

***God, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.***

***Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound;  
ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.***

\*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

“Little Fugue in F”

J.S. Bach

*The congregation may remain seated during the postlude or depart.*

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**\*Please rise in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116.

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: Linda Gillespie, Jeff Gordon, John & Suzanne Paulson, Ann & Lloyd Swaim

Flowers are given by Edie & Owen Graf "In memory of Sophie Graf and Jean Barnett"

## **JANUARY IS NATIONAL SOUP MONTH**

We are gearing up for our annual soup drive. Soup donations can be brought to the brown box in the hallway. Social Concerns will take our donations to Hands of Hope. Last year we collected 217 cans of soup. Let's try to top that number this year!

Thanks for your generous donations!

**Save the date!! For "Soup and Roots"  
Friday, January 24 at 4:30 pm**

The Activities Committee is planning our next "Souper Bowl". Our featured speaker will be Rev. Josh Crowell who will talk about "old time" Dennis happenings.

Soup will be provided - members are asked to bring salad, bread, or dessert. We will be doing sign-ups after church during Fellowship Hour.

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## **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 Secretary: Elise Gordon  
Office Administrator: Jane Wilson  
Sexton: Dave Crocker**