

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 19, 2025

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

"In The Bleak Midwinter"
Susan Barrett and Elise Gordon

G.Holst (arr. Simon Peberdy)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship

The Spirit of God is upon us!

The Spirit of hope and joy!

The Spirit of challenge and truth!

The Spirit of God is upon us,

Because God has anointed us

To bring good tidings to the poor,

To bind up the broken hearted.

God has anointed us

To proclaim liberty to captives,

To comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable,

To join with Christ in service and song.

Alleluia! Amen!

*Hymn #288

"O God of Vision"

Verses 1,2 & 3

**O God of vision far greater than all human sceming,
gather us now in your presence, refreshing, redeeming.**

Show us anew life in your breath-taking view, lovely beyond all our dreaming.

Pour out your Spirit on all now assembled before you.

May our diversity here be a means to adore you.

Women and men, young, old, and youthful again, make us as one, we implore you.

Grant to us insight, O God, for this time of decision.

May we dream challenging dreams of both depth and precision.

**Speak through the dark. Dispel by lightning's bright spark whatever clouds dim
our vision.**

*Invocation

Creator God, You came into the world in the person of Jesus so that we might begin to understand your love. As we learn about Jesus and the call to be followers of the Way, open our hearts to the leading of your spirit. Open our eyes to the light on the path before us and open our minds to the possibilities that await our discovery by your grace. Amen.

Word for the Young

Gospel Reading Luke 4:16-30

Homily “Cliff Hanger”

A Litany To Remember A Modern-Day Prophet

Choral Introduction “O for a World” Verse 1 - Blue Hymnal #683

The ultimate measure of humankind, according to Martin Luther King, Jr. is not where we stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where we stand in times of challenge and controversy.

Silence

O God, we pray, give us courage to be counted among those who will work for justice.

In 1963, in his challenging letter to complacent white clergy in the south, Dr. King wrote, “We will have to repent in this generation, not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. In the end,” he said, “we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

Silence

O God, we pray, transform our stillness into action, our fear into courage.

Choral Response “O for a World” Verse 2 #683

Inspired by the nonviolent teachings of Jesus, Thoreau, and Gandhi, King taught that nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon because it “cuts without wounding and ennoble the one who wields it. Nonviolence is a sword that heals.”

Silence

O God, we pray, heal the world through the work of our hands.

In 1964, in accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, Rev. King said that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. Right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.

Silence

O God, we pray, may we always trust in the strength of your goodness.

Choral Response

“O for a World”

Verse 3 # 683

In 1967, King wrote that in the wealthiest nation in the world, the solution to poverty is simply this, “We must abolish it!”

Silence

O God, we pray, rearrange the priorities of the peoples and nations so that all will receive in equal measure.

And on the day before his death, Dr. King described his ministry succinctly: “I just want to do God’s will.”

Silence

O God, we pray, raise up prophets among us who will lead us in your ways.

Choral Response

“O for a World”

Verses 4 & 5 #683

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“Just Dream”

Susan Barrett

*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

**+O Holy One, 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)

*Hymn #668

“For the Healing of the Nations”

Verses 1 & 2

***For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.***

***Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.***

*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

“Rondeau In D Minor”

H.Purcell (arr. Michael Aston)

Susan and Elise

The congregation may remain seated during the postlude or depart.

***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.

We welcome Susan Barrett and Elise Gordon, gifted musicians from within our congregation.

Susan is a retired piano teacher and has teamed up with Maggie many times.

Elise plays in the Bell Choir.

Maggie says thanks for a Sunday off after a busy Christmas season!

Deacon of the Day: Peter Berrien
Ushers and Greeters: Bob & Sally Bullard, Jeff Gordon, Ted & Margaret Housman,
Karen Mutti, Earl Springer

Flowers are given today by Mary Ann Eldred
"In loving memory of my husband Bob Eldred"

Save the date!! "Roots and Soups"
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.
Please sign-up after church during Fellowship Hour.

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 after worship
on February 2 and 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.

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!

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
Interim Sunday School Leader: Evy Sirignano
Finance Secretaries: Elise Gordon and Vicki Marchant
Office Administrator: Jane Wilson
Sexton: Dave Crocker