

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 26, 2025

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Arioso”

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Call to the 159th Annual Meeting – February 8, 2025

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship

We give thanks to you, O God, with our whole heart.

We give thanks to you for your steadfast love and faithfulness.

In the beauty of this winter morning, we long to hear your voice,
knowing that it brings both risk and promise.

In the beauty of this day, help us to trust you.

Help us trust where you lead us.

And what it means to participate in escorting in God's kin-dom.

Let us join our voices together

To sing praises and offer thanksgiving to God!

*Hymn #458

“Ours the Journey”

*In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering their sep'rate ways?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and evermore.*

*Through the flood of starving peoples, warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and evermore.*

*Though we reach the highest heavens, holding worlds at our command,
we are yet a desert people searching for the promised land.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and evermore.*

*Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and evermore.*

*Invocation

**Living Christ, your earthly ministry was full of struggle as well as joy;
yet you were faithful in following God's will. Breathe your spirit into our lives,
that we may never fall back from the way of discipleship or the way of love.
Grant that we may find true joy and peace as we accept the cost
of faithful discipleship. For it is in your name we pray.
Amen.**

Word for the Young

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Prayer of Confession

**Sometimes, O God your word is too much for us. You ask us to love our enemies,
when we can scarcely love those close to us. You ask us to give when we want
to take, and to forgive when we want to nurse bitterness. We thank you
that you accept us as we are, and that you show us what we can be.
Help us to believe that we can be loving, just, and merciful like you;
through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Silence

Assurance of Grace

This is the good news! In Jesus Christ; God loves us more than we love ourselves.
God forgives us, encourages us, and frees us to love others.
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading

Luke 5: 1-11

Homily

*Hymn #538

"Hope of the World"

Verses 1, 3 & 5

***Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion:
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;
save us, your people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.***

***Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light:
walk now beside us, lest the tempting byways
lure us away from you to endless night.***

***Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
who by this sign did conquer grief and pain:
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious;
you are our Christ and you forever reign!***

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“Lord, Here Am I”

John Ness Beck

*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 #455

“You Have Called Me”

Verses 1 & 3

***You have called me from my hiding place and given me a name;
from this moment on my life can never be the same.
I have seen the beckoning vision, though I wanted to remain,
here I am, send me, here I am.
“Who will go into the darkness where my people live in fear?
Who will speak of truth and charity so all of them can hear?
If you go where I am sending you, I always will be near.
Here I am, go for me, here I am.”***

***You have called me from my silence and given me a word.
I was dying in my coldness till a fire within me stirred.
Now I can keep still no longer, I must speak what I have heard.
Here I am, send me, here I am.***

***“Who will go into the darkness where my people live in fear?
Who will speak of truth and charity so all of them can hear?
If you go where I am sending you, I always will be near.
Here I am, go for me, here I am.”***

***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

“A Mighty Fortress”

J.C. Bach (uncle to J.S.)

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.

Deacon of the Day: Patti Goyette

Ushers and Greeters: Nancy & Ralph Aceti, Steve Higgins, Marla Ker,
Jeff & Judy Mereschuk, Karen Mutti

Flowers are given today by Judy Livingstone
“In memory of my beloved husband John ”

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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WELCOME AT SUNDAY WORSHIP?

Come join us at a short workshop describing the role of greeters as welcomers. It is a great way to be involved occasionally to make sure members, friends and visitors are welcomed warmly to DUC.

The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room TODAY at 11:30 am. Bring your coffee and join the conversation!

A reminder to youth and parents – we are gathering for lunch, games and conversation with a potential Faith Formation candidate today at 11:45 in the Lower Hall. Please join in the fun!

CALL TO COMMUNION

Next Sunday, February 2, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper, the common meal of bread and wine that our Lord shared with disciples on the night he was betrayed. **All are welcome at the table.**

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