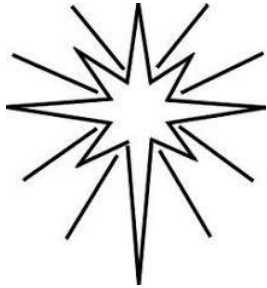


DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ



Epiphany Sunday

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 2025

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Kings of Orient”

Andrew Fletcher

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

*Call to Worship

Arise! Shine! Our light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

We have seen the star in the east, and we are following.

We have remembered God’s wonder and promise, and we are worshipping.

We have come not to get presents, but to give them!

Let us lift up our eyes and look around; God’s people now gather together,
to open our hearts and sing out our praise.

The mystery of God’s wonder and grace is here.

Come, let us adore!

*Hymn #176

“Sing of God Made Manifest”

Verses 1 & 2

***Sing of God made manifest in a child robust and blest,
to whose home in Bethlehem where a star had guided them,
magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound:
myrrh and frankincense and gold grave and God and king foretold.***

***Sing of God made manifest when at Jordan John confessed,
“I should be baptized by you, but your bidding I will do”
Then from heaven a double sign – dove-like Spirit, voice divine –
hailed the true Anointed One: “This is my beloved Son.”***

*Invocation

God of wonder and mystery, today we want to remember how you surprise us in every age. Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light; into emptiness, you bring abundance; into the cold, you bring warmth; into the hardness of the world, you bring the greatest power we have known, in the seemingly powerless form of an infant. Enter now, Holy One, among us and within us, and move us to joyful adoration of your mystery and wonder. Amen.

Contemporary Reading

“First Coming”

Written by Madeleine L’Engle

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-15

Homily

*Hymn #151

“The First Noel”

Verses 2 & 3

***They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.***

***And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.***

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Please hold each element so we can partake together as a congregation.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem and in the timeless presence of Christ’s Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. 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)

Offerings of the People

Offertory

"The Work of Christmas"

Dan Forrest

A Litany for the New Year¹

God, we came to worship, anticipating the new year hoping it will be better.

Guide our thinking and doing and help us remember:

2025 will be kinder,

if I am kinder.

2025 will be more compassionate,

if I show more compassion.

2025 will be less anxious,

if I offer more grace.

2025 will be more just,

if I advocate for more justice.

2025 will be less contentious,

if I speak more gently.

2025 will be less violent,

if I more actively work for peace.

2025 will be more loving,

if I demonstrate love more freely.

Guide us by your Light,

that we may bring your Light to the world.

*Hymn

"Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year"

New Christian Hymnal #431

*Now greet the swiftly changing year with joy and penitence sincere;
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.*

*Christ's love abundant far exceeds the volume of a whole year's needs;
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.*

*With such a God to lead our way in hazard and prosperity,
what need we fear in earth or space in this new year of grace?*

*"All glory be to God on high and peace on earth," the angels cry;
rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.*

*Sending Forth

Before leaving this morning let us turn to one another
and extend the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May peace be yours this new year!
(Please turn and acknowledge those around you).

*Benediction²

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back
with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins:

**to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among others,
to make music in the heart.**

Recessional

“Noel”

L.C. Daquin

The congregation may be seated for the music or depart.

***Please stand in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116. ¹ A Litany for the New Year adapted from Rev. Andy Bryan; ² “The Work of Christmas” by Howard Thurman. Other liturgy sources are not known. Star words from A Sanctified Art (sanctifiedart.org).

Deacon of the Day: Gary Forrister

Ushers and Greeters: Dennis & Patti Goyette, Lisa Sherman,
Dottie Damon, Karen Mutti

Flowers are given by Debbie & Tom Clemence “In loving memory of
Helen & Jack Clemence, Gertrude & Charles Riall and David Riall”

Please feel free to contact the church office at 508-385-3543 if you have any concerns,
prayer requests or desire a pastoral call.

Star Words for the New Year

The use of star words, also called “star gifts” is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for a decade.

Visit <https://wheelrandom.com/3sj-8p6> to generate your own star word at home.

We encourage you to place your star word somewhere you will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word.

SOUP IS OUR TARGETED DONATION THIS MONTH

How many cans of soup can we collect this year?

Please place donations of canned soup in the blue box by the office entrance and Social Concerns will deliver to Hands of Hope. Thank you!

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
P.O. Box 2020
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 Secretary: Elise Gordon
Office Administrator: Jane Wilson
Sexton: Dave Crocker