

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 16, 2025

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

"It Is Well"

Bliss, arr. Raney

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship

Come, all of you, into the presence of the Lord

Where the word of God speaks peace

to those who are worthy

and those who think they are not.

Come, hear the word of the Lord,

who opens to everyone wisdom and life,

a gospel not proclaimed from human origin

but from the heart of Christ, our healer and redeemer.

*Hymn #655

"Community of Christ"

Community of Christ who makes the cross your own,

live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:

the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,

whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the church's door

and see the refugee, the hungry and the poor.

Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,

take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound –

cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round:

disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,

turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,

the climate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;

our currency be love and kindness our law,

our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

*Invocation

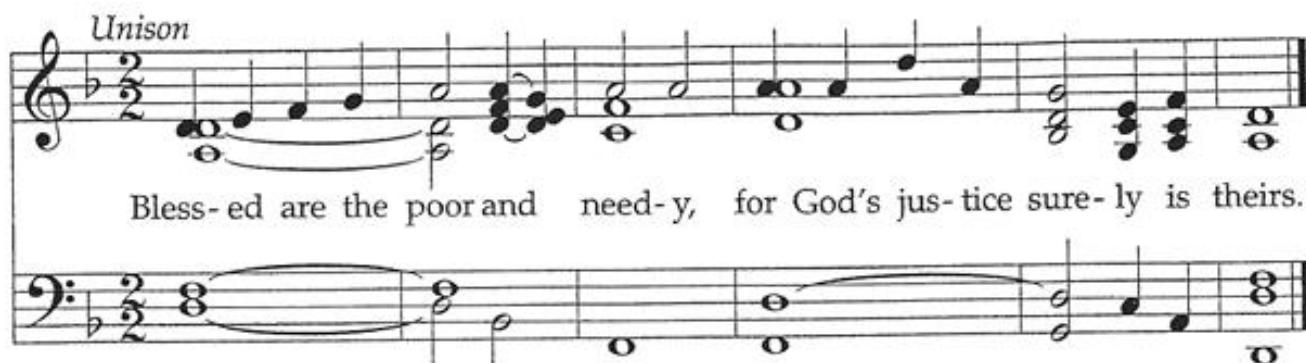
**Holy and life-giving God,
who hears the prayers of those in distress and those who sing for joy,
we give you thanks for the ever-enlarging fellowship of your people,
for your steadfast love for all creation,
and for the many ways your healing comes to us;
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Word for the Young

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 146

Hymnal #766



Response

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
Do not put your trust in rulers, in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.
Happy are those whose help is the God of Israel,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
**who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.**

Response

The LORD sets the prisoners free; and opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, and loves the righteous.
The LORD watches over the strangers, and upholds the orphan and the widow,
but brings to ruin the way of the wicked.
The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

Response

Gospel Reading

Luke 7: 1-17

Homily

*Hymn #680

“O God of Every Nation”

Verses 1 & 3

***O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.***

***Keep bright in us the visions of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.***

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“Hashivenu”

arr. Austin

*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

**+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 #666

“The Voice of God Is Calling”

Verses 1, 2 & 3

***The voice of God is calling to women and to men; the voice once heard in Zion,
resounds on earth again: whom shall I send to succor my people in their need?
Whom shall I send to loosen the bonds of shame and greed?***

***I hear my people crying in slum and mine and mill; no field or mart is silent,
no city street is still. I see my people falling in darkness and despair.
Whom shall I send to shatter the fetters which they bear?***

***We heed, O God, your summons, and answer: Here are we! Send us upon your errand;
let us your servants be. Our strength is dust and ashes, our years a passing hour.
But you can use our weakness to magnify your power.***

*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

Postlude

“Sortie”

Richard Shepard

We ask the congregation to please remain seated during the postlude today.

***Please rise in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116.
Portions of our liturgy this morning are from Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year C, Vol 1.

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: Kim Crowell

Ushers and Greeters: Jeff Gordon, Patti & Dennis Goyette,
Margaret & Ted Housman, Lisa Sherman

Flowers are given today by Sandra Hallett “In loving memory of Donald”

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 an information session today after worship.
Rev. McHugh will be glad to meet with you to discuss information covered
in the first session if you were unable to participate.

New members will be received during worship on February 23.

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 through February 20. **The Purdys’ presentation about their work to the Racial Justice Group has been rescheduled to February 20 at 9 am.** Members of the congregation are welcome to join the group to hear more about this inspiring exhibit.

♥ Sunday School Valentine’s Movie Night ♥

Children and youth are invited for a fun evening of fellowship, food, Valentine crafts and a Disney movie starting at 4 pm TODAY.

Please see Evy or Doreen so they know you are coming and to let them know what you can bring to share for dinner.

Everyone is welcome to bring friends!

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
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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