

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**February 9, 2025**

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

"Improvisation on Spirituals"

Howard Moody, organ

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 #7

"When in Our Music God Is Glorified"

Verses 1, 3 & 5

*When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,  
it is as though the whole creation cried, "Alleluia!"*

*So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
borne witness to the truth in every tongue: "Alleluia!"*

*Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always: "Alleluia!"*

\*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

Anthem

“Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child”  
Andrea Baker, Howard Moody, Newman Baker

Spiritual

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 146

Hymnal #766

*Unison*

Bless-ed are the poor and need-y, for God's jus-tice sure-ly is theirs.

**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

“Jesus Was Amazed“

\*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

“Wade In the Water”

arr. Moses Hogan

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 #669

“O Young and Fearless Prophet”

Verses 1, 4 & 5

*O young and fearless Prophet of ancient Galilee,  
your life is still a summons to serve humanity;  
to make our thoughts and actions less prone to please the crowd,  
to stand with humble courage for truth with hearts uncowed.*

*Stir up in us a protest against our greed for wealth,  
while others starve and hunger and plead for work and health;  
where homes with little children cry out for lack of bread,  
who live their years sore burdened beneath a gloomy dread.*

*O young and fearless Prophet, we need your presence here,  
amid our pride and glory to see thy face appear;  
once more to hear your challenge above our noisy day,  
again to lead us froward along God's holy way.*

\*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

“Fantasia in G”

J.S. Bach

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

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**\*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.

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We are so thrilled to have Andrea Baker return to Dennis Union along with her uncle Newman and her co-creator Howard Moody. Their musical gifts and their passionate belief in music's ability to change the world are an inspiration to us all. Thank you.

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Deacon of the Day: Heidi Wright  
Ushers and Greeters: Peter Berrien, Brian & Cathy McGuinness,  
Dottie Damon, Alyssa Davis, Marla Ker

Flowers are given today by Betty Boothe  
“In loving memory of family members: Bill, Ken, Mom, Dad, Grace and Willis”

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**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 cover the info from the session last Sunday if you were unable to participate then.

New members will be received during worship on February 23.

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If you have a special poem about love or kindness you would like to share, please bring a copy – in person or by email – to the office and we’ll share them in This Week at DUC to celebrate Valentine’s Day and share a little kindness.

## 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 a.m.** Members of the congregation are welcome to join the group to hear more about this inspiring exhibit.

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### ♥ Sunday School Valentine’s Movie Night ♥

Join us during February Vacation on Sunday, February 16 from 5 to 7 pm for a fun evening of fellowship, food, Valentine crafts and a fun Disney movie.

Be sure to sign up on the Children & Youth Bulletin Board to let us know if you can come and what you can bring to share for dinner.

*Everyone is welcome to bring friends!*

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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 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**