

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

everything [in] between lost & found

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“If With All Your Heart Ye Truly Love Him”

Mendelssohn

Antonio Abate, Tenor

Welcome and Announcements

Congregational Introit

Hymn 263

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;

I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;

surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship

Our God is a shepherding God.

Our God knows us by name.

Our God will never stop searching for us.

So if you feel lost,

then know that God is seeking you.

If you feel found,

then know that God will never leave.

This is the promise of scripture.

This is the promise of God's love.

Let us worship our with-us God.

*Hymn

“Lost and Found”

see end of bulletin

*Invocation

God meets us in the night—

before the sun rises, before the wound heals,

before there are answers, before there is closure.

God meets us in the light—
**where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom
from cracks in the sidewalk, where people gather around tables.**

God meets us in between—
**at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,
**then surely God meets us everywhere— at the water's edge,
at the start of something new, after the baptism, and before the call.**

We are not alone. God is all around.

Let us worship the God of everything.

Word for the Young

Anthem

“A Woman and a Coin”

Carl Schalk

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Ever present God, you come to us in such surprising ways:

When you are a painter,

let us be the brush.

When you are a musician,

Let us be the song.

When you are an architect,

Let us be the tools.

Let us be the hands.

Let us be the builders.

But you, O God, are indeed the shepherd, who never stops seeking,

let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel.

Our God is never far away.

Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found.

We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves.

We leave the flock and lose our way. But fortunately for us, our God
is a shepherding God who is always by our side.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

No matter how far we wander,

we can never wander from the bounds of God's grace.

We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Gospel Reading

Luke 15: 1-7

Homily

*Hymn #558

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Verses 1 & 2

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.*

*We are thine; do thou befriend us; be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock; from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear thy children when we pray;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear thy children when we pray.*

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“Sanctus”

Gounod

Prayer of Dedication

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 #566

“Be Still, My Soul”

Verses 1 & 2

*Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Trust in your God, your savior and your guide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a peaceful end.*

*Be still, my soul: for God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the voice that calmed them in this world below.*

*Passing the Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you. (Please turn and acknowledge those around you).

*Benediction

As we leave this place, may we find God in every messy middle.

May we know that the world is bigger than two sides.

**May we trust that we are made in the image of God,
and therefore, contain multitudes.**

So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news, and go in peace.

Recessional

“Allegro maestoso e vivace”

Mendelssohn

The congregation may be seated for the music or depart.

***Please rise in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116.
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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.

everything [in] between

meeting God in the midst of extremes

Our Lenten series this year follows the Gospel of Luke through the weeks of Lent –
stories of how Jesus’ ministry disrupted the established social, political
and religious divides of his time.

**The book study for Lent on the book “Cherished Belonging”
by Gregory Boyle continues Tuesdays through April 8.**

Lenten Soup Supper and Conversation April 10 at 6 pm

Please sign up on the hallway board to participate
or to contribute part of the meal (soup, salad, bread - no desserts, please!).

Maundy Thursday Service April 17 at 7 pm

Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 19 at 3 pm

Easter Sunday services April 20 at 6 am and 10 am

Deacon of the Day: Kim Crowell

Ushers and Greeters: Patti & Dennis Goyette, Marla Ker, Karen Mutti,
Sue Schofield, Lisa Sherman

Flowers are given today by Joan Stout "In loving memory of Bob and David"

Lost & Found



In the flock I am sur-roun - ded by my sib - lings
The ho - ri - zon starts to brigh - ten as I quiet - ly
As I wan - der down the quar - ry a fa - mi - liar



and my friends Safe at home and feel - ing groun - ded with my
slip a - way I can feel my spi - rit ligh - ten with each
voice cries out It's my shep - herd search - ing for me; reck - less



shep - herd to de - fend But an ach - ing, long - ing feel - ing
cau - tious step I take Un - fa - mil - iar paths un - fold - ing
love has tracked me down Though I left my place of re - fuge,



as the stars shine late at night Draws me in, my dreams
as ex - cite - ment blends with fear All cre - a - tion now
he has fol - lowed all a - long But I had to lose



re - veal - ing and I know I'm not quite right
en - folds me like the flock I hold so dear
my - self to find my - self where I be - long

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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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