

DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ



First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 2022

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland”

J. Pachelbel

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

*Call to Worship

A tiny jewel of light dances on the edge of the horizon: a solitary star
before sunrise glimmers a promise of dawn at the end of the world's blight.

It is the light of the world, “Emmanuel” (God with us), The Promised One.

Come to us, Emmanuel! We have seen your light and gather here

Awaiting the day of your coming with hope.

* Hymn #135

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

***Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.***

***The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.***

***Now from the house of David a child of grace has come,
a Savior who will lead us to our eternal home.***

***Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.***

***On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!***

Invocation

Eternal Creator, with you each moment of life is full of wonder and surprise. We pray you, to make us watchful as we await the coming of Christ. Grant that we may not be found sleeping, but awake and rejoicing in the new thing you are doing. Lead us into the days ahead with hope and anticipation. Amen.

Advent Candle Liturgy

When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. So many neighbors, nearby and around the world, will go to bed hungry tonight...

When we look around, we see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer — and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight...

In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope...

In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope...

The first candle is lit.

Choral Response

“Christ, Be Our Light”

Choir: *Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.*

Congregation:

***Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

Melody
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

G Dsus4 D Em Em7/D C Am7 D G Am7/G G

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to - day.

May the light from this candle shine bright around the world.

May the light from this candle say to all, that God's hope is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

Friends, be not afraid, God's hope is at hand!

Amen!

Offering/Offertory "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Traditional

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 42: 1-9

Homily "A Light to the Nations"

Anthem "Pacem" Lee Dengler

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. (*Creator, Father)

*Hymn #119 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Verses 1 and 4

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*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

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Wilbur Held

***Those who can easily do so may stand.**

Music reproduced with permission: *One License #8-730116* Candle lighting liturgy adapted from saltproject.org
Portions of our liturgy today are adapted from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi.

We are glad you have joined us today for worship, for we are the church whether we are gathered or scattered. Please feel free to contact the church at 508-385-3543 if you have any concerns, prayer requests, or desire a pastoral call.

**Hearing Assistive devices are available for use.
Please see one of the deacons if you would like to use one.**

Advent devotionals are available during Fellowship Hour
or from the office during the week

Deacon of the Day: Lyle Ashby
Greeters: Dottie & Renny Damon, Jeff & Judy Mereschuk
Ushers: Dory & Lee Marchildon, Barbara Lussier

Flowers are given today by Paula & Simon Bookout
“In memory of our son Philip Andrew”

Fellowship Hour will be in the Lower Hall today; refreshments today
are provided by the Board of Christian Education.

We invite visitors to use a red cup so we may greet you.

CALL TO COMMUNION

Next Sunday, December 4, we will celebrate the Lord’s supper,
the common meal of bread and wine that the Lord shared
with the disciples on the night he was betrayed.

All are welcome at the table!

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Poinsettia plants for holiday services is a beloved tradition at DUC both for the color they
add to our sanctuary and the opportunity to acknowledge and honor those dear to us.

Donations of \$10 to the Flower Committee in honor of or in memory of a loved one may be
placed with the church office until December 14, with dedications listed in the worship
bulletin on December 18 and Christmas Eve.

Advent Book Study

Join Rev. McHugh and Connie Bickford on Zoom Wednesdays
beginning November 30 at 8:30 am
to discuss *Names of the Messiah* by Walter Brueggemann.

The book ponders four royal titles from Isaiah 9:6:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace –
and how the people of that time understood them, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title,
and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title.

SERVICE OF HOPE AND LIGHT DECEMBER 8

The Service of Hope and Light acknowledges that Christmas can be a difficult time. It can challenge us for many reasons -- a recent loss, feeling depressed or separated from loved ones, memories of painful Christmases past; or a feeling of intense disconnection from the prevailing celebratory feeling of Christmas.

This year, our service will be held on **Thursday, December 8 at 7 pm**. This time and space apart from the hype of our commercial Christmas offers an opportunity to experience a sacred presence amidst our lives which are sometimes awkward, uncomfortable, and messy.

May peace be with you in this season of light and hope.

DY-ECH CARDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

If you would like to purchase gift cards for your holiday list, consider purchasing cards from DY-ECH. A list of available cards is on the hallway bulletin board – some are readily available during Fellowship Hour; some will need to be ordered.

A percentage of the value of each card is donated to the HAC's program to prevent homelessness on the Cape – making your gift \$\$ an additional benefit to the community.

Eventide Theatre's "A Child's Christmas in Wales" continues through December 4

"A Child's Christmas in Wales" is a full-length musical play, based on Dylan Thomas's classic story, adapted by Jeremy Brooks and Adrian Mitchell. Set in the Welsh seaside town of Swansea in the 1920's, the Thomas family celebrates Christmas.

Performances are Sunday at 2 pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and a special matinee performance next Saturday December 3 at 2 pm.

Tickets are available at eventidearts.org or by calling the box office at 508-233-2148

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
Church School Facilitator & Youth Fellowship Coordinator: Cindy Fiscus
Office Administrator: Jane B. Wilson
Finance Secretaries: Peter Berrien and Elise Gordon
Sexton: Dave Crocker**