

DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ



Consider the birds...

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Le Coucou” (The Cuckoo)

Louis-Claude Daquin

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

*Call to Worship

God, we come to you from different wilderness places.

**From the hectic-ness of work, the crazy schedules of camp and summer jobs,
from the needs of visitors and family, from overbooked retirement.**

We have come looking for you and your Spirit meets us,
welcoming us just as we are.

God, we come to you bringing different things,
we bring our questions, doubts, complaints, joys, suspicions, and gifts.

We have come needing you in diverse ways,
and your spirit meets us, welcoming us just as we are.

God, we have come to you as different people.

**We are teachers and lawyers, parents, students, athletes,
gardeners, doctors and receptionists, grandparents and laborers.**

As we bring our whole selves to worship this morning,
**we ask that your Spirit meet us where we are and as we are
so that we might be united in the love of Christ Jesus
for the sake of the world. Amen.**

*Hymn # 695

“God of the Fertile Fields”

Verses 1, 2 & 3

***God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread;
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in ev'ry land be clothed and fed.***

*We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
for people everywhere, that all may live.*

*As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, your reign yet grows.
So let our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.*

*Invocation

**O Holy One, open our eyes to the manna you have provided;
open our ears to your word being proclaimed;
open our hearts to your presence at work in our midst.
Let this be a day of new beginnings where our hearts are satisfied
and we are empowered to fly on the wings of your grace
to share the good news of the gospel. Amen.**

Word for the Young

Ornithology Moment

The Quail

Judy Mereschuk

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, we have complained:
we have longed for the past and distrusted the future;
we have blamed situations on others;
we have become angry when our expectations were not fulfilled;
we have failed to recognize your gifts around us.
Still our complaining voices long enough
that we may hear your word of truth.**

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Grace

Forgiveness and new beginnings are a daily blessing like manna and quail, given freely.
With grateful hearts we feed on and are nourished by God's grace. Amen.

Anthem

"You Raise Me Up"

arr. Mark Hayes

Scripture Reading

Exodus 16:1-8

Homily

"What is Our Desire?"

*Hymn #244

“Loving Spirit”

*Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be –
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.*

*Like a mother you enfold me, hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone.*

*Like a father you protect me, teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder, let me see the world from high.*

*Friend and lover, in your closeness I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort, in your presence I may rest.*

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“Benedictus”

Karl Jenkins

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

*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/O Holy One)

*Hymn #633

“Lead On, O Cloud of Presence”

*Lead on, O cloud of presence; the exodus is come;
in wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our bondage left behind us, new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.*

*Lead on, O fiery pillar; we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing, though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wand'ring, for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.*

*Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy and love is law's demand.*

*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

The congregation may remain seated during the postlude or depart.

***Please rise in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116. Portions of our liturgy this morning come from or are adapted from *An Improbable Gift* by Grant and Tirabassi and *From the Psalms to the Clouds* by Tirabassi and Mankin. This sermon series has been inspired and based on the book *Consider the Birds* by Debbie Blue.

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: Judy Mereschuk
Ushers: Midge Kuntz, Peggy McAloon, Lisa Sherman
Greeters: Judy Berrien, Betty Boothe, Dottie Damon

Flowers are given today by Peggy McAloon
"In honor of my late mother Margaret Gallagher Toomey"

August Service Project

The Christian Education Committee is hosting a Backpack and School Supply Collection throughout August and ending on Homecoming Sunday, September 10.

We are asking for donations of all kinds of school supplies including: pens and pencils, magic markers, crayons, glue sticks, highlighters, notebooks, report folders, ring binders, and empty backpacks. There is a collection bin near the table in the main hallway.

All items will be donated to Child and Family Services in Hyannis. Thank you!

Interested in becoming a member of DUC?

If you are curious about what it means to be a member of Dennis Union Church,
you are invited to join us for two information sessions
to be held on **September 17 and 24** after the 10 a.m. worship service.
New members will be received at worship on **October 8**.

Please contact the office if you are interested in participating.



Dennis Union Church
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: Cindy Fiscus
Finance Secretaries: Peter Berrien and Elise Gordon
Office Administrator: Jane B. Wilson
Sexton: Dave Crocker
Crib Room Attendant: Victoria Krukowski