

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ



## Consider the birds...

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 27, 2023**

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

\*Call to Worship

Creator God, we delight in the persistence of the Dove and Pigeons  
who will not leave us alone,

**Remembering that You, O God, are like them, always longing to be near us.**

As our Ancestors were nourished and sustained by the manna and the Quail  
in the wilderness, we are nourished by your Holy Word.

**With joy we recall the glimpse of your grace as when the Eagle soars overhead  
and takes our breath away.**

Each of your creatures reveals to us your love and compassion,  
as you forget not even the Sparrow or the lilies of the field.

**Now, O God, we come to worship, we are reminded once more that you love us  
like a mother Hen who protects her young under her wing.**

Let us worship God!

\*Hymn #15

“Rejoice, You Pure in Heart”

Verses 1,2 & 4

***Rejoice, you pure in heart; lift praises to the sky;  
your festive banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong souls and spirits meek,  
raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak.  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Yes, on through life's long path, still singing as you go,  
from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

\*Invocation

**Tender and loving God, we often run from you due to our anxiety and fear.  
Help us to remember that you care for us like a Hen cares for her young chicks.  
Help us not to scatter, but to gather under the wings of your love.  
Help us remember that your protection may come in the form of our courage,  
strength, and vision. Draw near to us this hour, open our hearts and minds  
to your love. Amen.**

Word for the Young

Stewardship Moment

Bev Miller

Anthem

“Whispering Hope”  
Peggy Moreau & Ellen Sheetz

S. Winner

Ornithology Moment

The Hen

Pam Hill

Gospel Lesson

Luke 13: 31-35

Homily

\*Hymn #285

“How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely”

***How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;  
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.  
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;  
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.***

***In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day  
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.  
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord  
than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.***

***A sun and shield forever are you, O God most high;  
you shower us with blessings no good will you deny.  
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,  
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.***

Offerings of the People

Offertory

\*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 #14

“Womb of Life and Source of Being”

Verses 1,2 & 3

***Womb of life, and source of being, home of ev'ry restless heart,  
in your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start.  
We, your children, gather 'round you, at the table you prepare.  
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.***

***Word in flesh, our brother Jesus, born to bring us second birth,  
you have come to stand beside us, knowing weakness, knowing earth.  
Priest who shared our human struggles, Life of Life, and Death of Death,  
risen Christ, come stand among us, send the Spirit by your breath.***

***Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend.  
When our mem'ry fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend.  
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be,  
free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity.***

\*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.*

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

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Deacon of the Day: Priscilla Hutchison  
Ushers: Betsy Harrison, Lisa Sherman  
Greeters: Judy Berrien, Dottie Damon, Karen Mutti, Barbara & Paul Gray

Flowers are given today  
"In honor of Louise Armstrong on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday from her family"

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### **CALL TO COMMUNION**

Next Sunday we will celebrate the Lord's Supper, the common meal of bread and wine that the Lord shared with his disciples.

**All are welcome at the table.**

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### **EMAIL UPDATES**

Please note that Rev. McHugh has a new email address:  
[revmcq@duchurch.org](mailto:revmcq@duchurch.org)

To make sure she receives your communications, please update her contact information to use this address only and not the previous "seniorpastor" or gmail addresses. Also - the church office address should only be [office@duchurch.org](mailto:office@duchurch.org) and not a gmail address.

### **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.

## **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, and ring binders. 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!

### **Save the Date!**

**Homecoming Sunday September 10**

**All are welcome for a potluck picnic after worship**

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**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 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**