

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 3, 2023**

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Cantilena”

Michael Bedford

Welcome and Announcements

Moment of Silence

\*Call to Worship

Siblings in Christ, as we gather in the welcome of God’s love,  
as we gather in the joy of our unity in Christ,  
as we gather in the power of the Spirit,  
let us listen for the voice of God!

**Let us worship God, who has spoken and still speaks to those  
who attend to the roar or the whisper of the Holy One. Amen.**

\*Hymn #79

“God Is My Shepherd”

Verses 1, 4 & 5

*God is my shepherd, I'll not want, I feed in pastures green.  
God grants me rest and bids me drink from waters calm and clean.  
Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led by one I have not seen.*

*No enemy can overcome, no power on earth defeat  
the ones anointed by God's grace and fed with manna sweet.  
My cup is filled and overflows as I my Savior greet.*

*Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me;  
and where God reigns in heaven and earth, my dwelling place will be.  
My shepherd blesses, cares, and leads though all eternity.*

Invocation

O God who is love, when you seem so far away from us, remind us to reach within  
to the stirring of the spirit at the core of our being and there, let us find you.

**When you seem so unconcerned, so massive, so impassive, so insulated  
by your power, so distant by your expansiveness, remind us to reach out  
to the hand of a child, to the face of a friend, and there let us find you.**

In time when we have nothing to feel and there is no one to touch,  
**let us never close our hearts or our hands, but always, let us be open to you  
and let us be open today; here and now. Amen.**

Anthem

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, you have called us to live in faith and freedom, but we live with tightness in our chest. You have called us to move in a new direction, but we cling to the path we know. You have called us to reach outward in love, but we draw inward for protection. You have called us to live with abandon and trust, but we live carefully, in fear. God forgive us. Amen.**

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace

God sent Jesus not to judge us, but to save us. God accepts both our courage and our fears. In the name of Christ our sins are forgiven.  
**Let us dare to accept this gift of grace and a new beginning.**

Scripture Lesson

Gospel Lesson

Luke 22:31-34, 54-62

Homily

\*Hymn #409

“I Hunger and I Thirst”

***I hunger and I thirst; Jesus, my manna be!  
O living waters, burst out of the rock for me!***

***O bruised and broken Bread, my lifelong needs supply.  
As living souls are fed, so feed me, or I die.***

***O true life-giving Vine, let me your goodness prove.  
By your life sweeten mine, refresh my soul with love.***

***For still the desert lies behind me and before:  
O living waters, rise within me evermore!***

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and good to give God thanks and praise.**

Sanctus

***Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!***

***My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord.***

Words of Institution and Blessing of Elements

Choral Response

*The gifts of God for the people of God! Come now, for all is prepared!*

***The gifts of God for the people of God! The Gospel is among us.***

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Please hold each element so we can partake together as a congregation.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Loving and gracious God, thank you for this holy meal. Thank you for Jesus and his all-inclusive love for humanity. Thank you for this day in which we worship and serve you. Now lead us back into our places of labor and leisure that we might be witnesses of your love and grace in the world. Amen.**

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“Herzlich tut mich verlangen”

J.P. Kirnberger

\*Doxology

***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

**+Creator God, 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/O Holy One)

## \*Sending Forth

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 by singing together:

“Shalom to You Now” (Hymn #436)

***Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.***

## \*Benediction

Postlude

“Immortal, Invisible”

Robert J. Powell

*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. Portions of our liturgy today are from *Touch Holiness* by R.C. Duck and M.C. Tirabassi. 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: Earl Springer

Ushers: Peggy McAloon, Judy November, Lisa Sherman

Greeters: Elise & Jeff Gordon, Dottie Damon

Flowers are given by the family of Paul Woudenberg “In loving memory of Paul”

### **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.

### **School Supply Collection**

Thank you for your generous support of our collections of all kinds of school supplies during August – we’ll continue to collect items through next week.

Please bring them in by Sunday, September 10, so we can get all of our collection to Child and Family Services in Hyannis.

**DUC Homecoming September 10**  
**BBQ and Potluck Luncheon**  
(On the front lawn after the 10am worship service)

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We're celebrating the start of a new program year with a party!

We will supply the drinks and the BBQ - YOU bring your choice of side salad,  
fruit, or dessert to add to the lunch.

**NO SIGN-UP SHEET - IT'S A POTLUCK!**

**Email Updates and New Phone System**

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

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

The telephone system for the church has recently been updated thanks to the work of the Property Committee. There is a new answering message and the ability to record voice messages again. You can press "0" anytime during the call to connect with the Church Office.

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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 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**