

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Risen, Hallelujah”

Douglas Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

*Call to Worship

Come, faithful people of God, for it is a new day!

We come trusting in the covenant of God spoken to our ancestors in faith.

Come, faithful people of God, for there is yet more truth and light to be revealed!

We come trusting in the promises of Jesus that love has no end.

Come, faithful people of God, let us rejoice in the presence of the Holy One

who has sustained us and lifts us up to meet the challenges of everyday.

Come, faithful people of God, let us worship God together

with praise and thanksgiving.

*Hymn #335

“Creating God, Your Fingers Trace”

Creating God, your fingers trace the bold designs of farthest space;

let sun and moon and stars and light and what lies hidden praise your might.

Sustaining God, your hands uphold earth's mysteries known or yet untold;

let water's fragile blend with air, enabling life, proclaim your care.

Redeeming God, your arms embrace all now despised for creed or race;

let peace, descending like a dove, make known on earth your healing love.

Indwelling God, your gospel claims one family with a billion names;

let every life be touched by grace until we praise you face to face.

*Invocation

**God of surprises we gather here to hear your word, to pray and sing
and to remember who we are as your people. Open our hearts to the movement
of your great mercy. Open our minds to the leading of your word and open
our eyes and ears to the people and needs around us so that we might be vessels
through which your good news and amazing grace are made real. Amen.**

Word for the Young

With joy the God of Hosts pro - claim,
ex - tol the great al - might - y name.

Response

Ascribe to the LORD, O Heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.
 The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.
 The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

Response

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
 the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
The LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.
 The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
 The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;
and in God's temple all say, "Glory!"
 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
 the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
May the LORD give strength to God's people!
May the LORD bless God's people with peace!

Response

Dedication of Silent Bell

Reading from Hebrew Scriptures Genesis 18: 1-15, 21: 1-3, 6-7

Homily Holy Laughter

*Hymn 258 "Holy Wisdom" Verses 1 & 2

***Who comes from God, as Word and Breath? Holy Wisdom.
Who holds the keys of life and death? Mighty Wisdom.
Crafter and Creator too, Eldest, she makes all things new;
Wisdom guides what God will do,
Wisest One, Radiant One, welcome, Holy Wisdom.***

***Who lifts her voice for all to hear? Joyful Wisdom.
Who shapes a thought and makes it clear? Truthful Wisdom.
Teacher, drawing out our best, magnifies what we invest,
names our truth, directs our quest,
Wisest One, Radiant One, welcome, Holy Wisdom.***

Offerings of the People

Offertory "Ah, Holy Jesus" arr. Hungerford

*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 #431 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

***Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
in my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
go, my children, with my blessing you are my own.***

***Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure,
here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure;
here you heard my Son's dear story, here you touched him, saw his glory,
go, my children, sins forgiven at peace and pure.***

*Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here his tender comfort stilled you;
go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.*

*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

“Sortie”

R. Shepherd

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.

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: Midge Kuntz

Ushers: Joanne Ashby, Betsy Harrison, Craig Valenti

Greeters: Jeff Gordon, Barbara & Paul Gray, Dory & Lee Marchildon

Flowers are given today by Geoffrey & Jane Wilson

“In memory of their parents Bob & Sophie Wilson and D.R. & Dixie Black”

EMAIL UPDATES

Please note that Rev. McHugh has a new email address: 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 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 an information session in the sanctuary TODAY after Fellowship Hour; a second session will be held on September 24.

New members will be received at worship on **October 8**.
Please speak with Rev. McHugh if you are interested in participating.

Energy Café Today

Faith Community Environmental Network's ENERGY CAFÉ is part of our Fellowship Hour today on Sept 17 in Fellowship Hall. After you have enjoyed some goodies and conversation, presenters Judith Holt and Nancy Davison will answer the question we all ask ourselves, "What can I do about climate change?"

Learn how you can receive a no cost energy assessment of your home (owners, renters and landlords), a first step toward energy savings benefits with deep discounts on insulation and air sealing.

Sign up is easy and everyone who signs up will receive a \$25 gift certificate!

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.)
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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