

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**April 14, 2024**

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

arr. Daniel Hermany

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silence

\*Call to Worship

Today is a new day!

**We come with the past behind us.**

The future is wide open.

**We come to celebrate the new life Christ brings.**

Christ is with us!

**Christ is with us indeed!**

\*Hymn #285

“How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely”

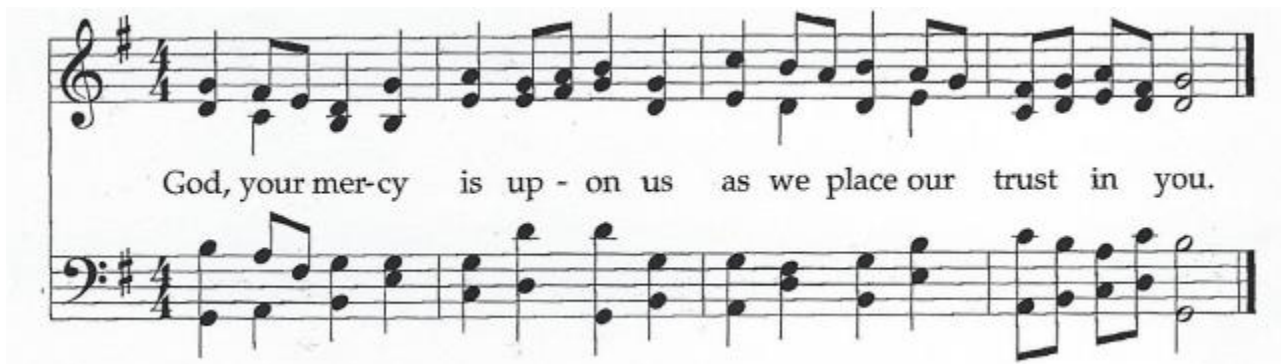
*How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;  
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.  
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;  
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.*

*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.*

\*Invocation

**Gracious God, we thank you for Jesus Christ, who in compassion for the helpless and harassed crowds, sent out his disciples with words of hope and deeds of love. We look around us today and see the same depths of human need; we know that you send us out with good news now. We humbly and joyfully accept your mission, trusting in Jesus Christ to give us courage and strength. Amen.**

**Response**

I waited patiently for the LORD, who inclined to me and heard my cry,  
**who drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,  
 and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure,**  
 who put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.  
**Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.**

**Response**

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;  
**see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O God.**  
 I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,  
 I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;  
**I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
 from the great congregation.**  
 Do not, O God, withhold your mercy from me;  
**let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.**

**Response**

## Word for the Young

Anthem

“Hallelujah! Jesus Lives”  
 Catherine Krukowski, flute

Cathy Moglebust

New Testament Reading

Acts 3: 1-10

Homily

“Expectations”

\*Hymn #506

“Healer of Our Ev’ry Ill”

Verses 1,2 &amp; 4

***Healer of our ev’ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
 give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.***

***You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness,  
 Spirit of all comfort: fill our hearts.***

***Healer of our ev’ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
 give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.***

*In the pain and joy beholding, how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision: God of love.  
Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

*You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing,  
Spirit of compassion: fill each heart.  
Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“Jesus Christus, unser Heiland”

J.S. Bach

\*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)

\*Hymn #518

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

Verses 1, 2 & 3

*This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

*For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.*

*Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.*

\*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

Recessional

“Thanks Be To Thee”

G. F. Handel

*The congregation is welcome to leave quietly or stay seated and listen.*

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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 are from *Flames of the Spirit*, R.C. Duck.

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: Peter Berrien

Ushers: Linda Gillespie, Dennis & Patti Goyette

Greeters: George & Glenna Cappola, Dottie & Renny Damon, Jeff Gordon, Craig Valenti

Flowers are given today by Dory & Lee Marchildon “In memory of Gayle Williams”

### **Barnstable Association Annual Meeting**

Cape Cod UCC Congregations are invited to the Barnstable Association Annual Meeting today at 3 pm at the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Harwich Port.

We are pleased to offer an opportunity to our members to attend this Kingian nonviolence lecture and interactive exercises. No pre-registration is needed; all are welcome to attend.

### **April is Earth Month**

We celebrate the Earth this month – April 22 will be the 54th anniversary of the first Earth Day Celebration held in 1970. The first Earth Day was the brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin who dreamed of an event to increase public awareness of the world’s environmental problems. Millions of people around the world honor the Earth in countless ways on this day.

**Many different events are planned throughout the Cape during the weeks ahead; check out the Creation Care bulletin board for more information.**

## DUC Memorial Fund Scholarship Applications Available

Dennis Union Church Memorial Scholarships are available for graduating high school students who will be continuing their education.

Scholarships will be awarded based on contribution to DUC, character, school transcript, and three letters of recommendation or support (two from teacher, guidance counselor, or employer; one from a DUC member). These awards will be presented to the students near the end of the 2024 school year.

Applications are available in the church office, by email request to DUC Office Administrator, Jane Wilson, and online at [duchurch.org](http://duchurch.org). The completed application should be sent to the Dennis Union Church Office, attention: Memorial Committee -- either by mail (P.O. Box 2020, Dennis MA 02638) or via email to the office ([office@duchurch.org](mailto:office@duchurch.org)).

**The submission deadline is April 15, 2024.**

## 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: Elise Gordon and Steve Kuhrtz**  
**Office Administrator: Jane Wilson**  
**Sexton: Dave Crocker**  
**Crib Room Attendant: Victoria Krukowski**