

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Sheep May Safely Graze“

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship

We praise you, God beyond gods; with a world restored we praise you.

In faith, we anticipate that day, and praise you for the first fruits of its coming.

We do not put our trust in passing fashions, nor in the promises of powerful people.

**They are powerless to save, their ashes are scattered,
their words soon crumbling to dust.**

To the Creator of the infinite heavens, of the earth and the seas and their creatures,
who works unceasingly for justice, we give our heartfelt praise.

*Hymn #22

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Verses 1,2 & 3

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing;

Alleluia, Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O rushing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n along,

O praise God, Alleluia!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice, you lights of evening find a voice,

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your God to hear,

Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blazing fire who lights the night, providing warmth, enhancing sight,

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Invocation

O God, in love you created us, and in your grace you sustain us. We thank you for all in creation that provides for our needs, for all that is pleasing to our senses, for all that is part of the web of life on our planet.

**Help us to use wisely the resources of this earth:
to be willing to share and cooperate with others,
to pursue peace in all of our relationships,
to cherish all that your hands have made.
Help us to live responsibly so that the earth may not only endure,
but flourish to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Word for the Young

Anthem "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" Tom Fettke

Readings from the Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 1:1-9, Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 13:14-18, Leviticus 25:1-7, Joel 2:21-24

Homily "The Land" Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White

*Hymn #689 "We Are Not Our Own" Verses 1, 2 & 4

***We are not our own. Earth forms us, human leaves on nature's growing vine,
fruit of many generations, seeds of life divine.***

***We are not alone. Earth names us: past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers show us who we are.***

***Therefore let us make thanksgiving, and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth, and all things living, liturgies of care.***

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)

*Hymn #696

“For Beauty of Meadows”

*For beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees,
for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas, for all you created
and gave us to share, we praise you, Creator, extolling your care.*

*As stewards of beauty received at your hand,
as creatures who hear your most urgent command, we turn from our wasteful
destruction of life, confessing our failures, confessing our strife.*

*Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace;
all nature around us is ours but on lease; your name we would hallow
in all that we do, fulfilling our calling, creating with you.*

*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

“St. Denio”

Robert Powell

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

***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.

We welcome The Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White as our guest preacher today and next Sunday while Rev. McHugh is on her pilgrimage trip in Spain.

The Rev. Greenwood White is ordained in the PC(USA) and lives in Orleans, where she is Pastoral Associate at the Federated Church of Orleans, UCC.

Deacon of the Day: Allan Fisk

Ushers: Carlene Brown, Peggy McAloon, Jane Wilson

Greeters: Judy Berrien, Elise & Jeff Gordon, Karen Mutti, Ann & Lloyd Swaim

Flowers are given today by Joan Stout "In loving memory of Bob and David"

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.

Support Lighting the DUC Steeple and Commemorate Loved Ones

The installation of spotlights on the DUC Steeple in 2022 turned out to be a superb way to enhance the appearance of our beautiful Church each and every evening. An idea to help defray Steeple Bell lighting expenses with donations in honor of a loved one has been developed and was recently endorsed by the DUC Council.

Starting in May, our Steeple Bell newsletter will carry the names of donors for each month along with whatever words of commemoration are desired.

A donation of \$25 is requested; those interested should send an email to Ralph Aceti at raceti@gmail.com with the names of those being honored and words of commemoration.

Payment by check is preferred – please make out to Dennis Union Church and note "Steeple Lighting" in the memo section of the check.



Dennis Union Church

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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: Elise Gordon and Steve Kuhrtz

Office Administrator: Jane Wilson

Sexton: Dave Crocker

Crib Room Attendant: Victoria Krukowski