

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**April 7, 2024**

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Intermezzo”

P. Mascagni

Welcome and Announcements

Moment of Silence

\*Call to Worship

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed.**

Alleluia! We are baptized into Christ’s death, so that as Christ was raised by your glory, we too may walk in newness of life.

**Alleluia!**

Raise us up, O God, from cynicism to trust, from fear to love, from death to life.

**Raise us up, O risen Christ! Alleluia!**

\*Hymn #108

“Lift High the Cross”

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

***Come Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in unity combine.***

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

***Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.***

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

***O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, your death has brought us life eternally.***

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

***So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the crucified for victory.***

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

Invocation

**God of Resurrection, receive our past, gather it into your grace, and usher us into your new future. We who seek Jesus wait with eager hope. We search with earnest hearts. We reach out with trembling hands. May Christ come to us, that we may see anew, and live in faith. Amen.**

Anthem

“O Christ, Surround Me”

R.B. Colligan

Call to Confession

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

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we profess resurrection and yet we have lived as if it is not true. We have not trusted you completely, received life from you fully, or given of ourselves freely. We have not loved as you have asked us to.

**God, have mercy.**

Forgive our sin. Reach out and touch the wounds of our hearts, and heal them.

**God, have mercy.**

From the grave of our sin, raise us up to new life. Restore our faith, renew our love, and grant us once again your deepest joy.

**God of all mercy, by the mystery of your grace,  
raise us up to new life with the Risen Christ.**

Scripture Lesson

Acts 1: 1-14

Homily

\*Hymn #428

“An Upper Room with Evening Lamps Ashine”

verses 1 & 4

***An upper room with evening lamps ashine,  
the twelve disciples, and the table spread;  
now in our turn Christ bids us pour the wine,  
and in remembrance bless and break the bread.***

***So send us out, to love and serve and praise,  
filled with his Spirit, as the Master said:  
love, joy and peace the wine of all our days,  
Christ and his life our true and living bread.***

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

**Gracious God, we thank you for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. We have seen with our eyes and known in our hearts, we have tasted with our tongues and known in our souls your risen presence—in this meal, in our sharing, in one another. Breathe your Spirit into us and send us now in your grace, so that through our love others may hear and see and feel your love, alive in this world. Amen.**

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“Dundee”

G. Young

\*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

The Lord’s Prayer

**\*God, our Creator, 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)

\*Hymn #224

“Christ Arose!”

Verses 1 & 3

*Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose a victor  
from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

*Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior; he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose a victor  
from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

\*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

“Easter Chant”

G. Young

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**\*Those who can easily do so may stand.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116. Portions of today's liturgy written by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

We welcome everyone to worship today. We are glad you have joined us;  
for we are the church whether we are gathered or scattered.  
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: Joe Hesse

Ushers: Bruce & Linda Turner

Greeters: Peter Berrien, Jeff Gordon, Karen Mutti,

John & Suzanne Paulson, Emily Woudenberg

Flowers are given today by Annmarie Gavin “In loving memory of my husband Steve”

## Notes for the Annual Auction & Bazaar

Spring is here, and as you are doing spring cleaning and sorting through items, please keep in mind that this year's Auction is only four months away - **Saturday, August 10, 2024 - save the date!**

The auction crew is especially interested in toys, jewelry, quality decoratives, paintings, bikes, baskets as well as small furniture pieces and household goods. Please call the office at 508-385-3543 to arrange a pickup or drop-off time.

The General Store booth is looking to add arts and craft for sale. If you knit, crochet, sew, quilt, paint or make jewelry, please consider donating items. Contact Laurie Higgins at [lauriehiggins@comcast.net](mailto:lauriehiggins@comcast.net) if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you!

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A prayer from the UCC for tomorrow:

### LITANY FOR THE ECLIPSE

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ...*

*On Monday, April 8, some of our churches will be able to witness a total solar eclipse. The moon travels along its orbit, passing between the sun and the earth. For three to four minutes the day will become as night. It is a holy moment, affording us a new perspective on God's creation.*

Creator God, you bring life to this earth and beyond.

**All of creation is infused with your spirit.**

We praise your creation!

**We marvel at the vastness of your realm!**

We are humbled as we witness the spectacle of your design.

**We pause to consider our own unique part in your universe.**

You created each of us to be an important contribution to your vast cosmos.

**And each of our actions participates in the health of your creation.**

We stand in awe before this display.

**We unite in praise of your loving hand, guiding the moon around the earth.**

As day is seemingly brought to night

**we are reminded of your power to transform and heal.**

As the moon travels before our eyes

**we wonder: You, who can move an object a third of the size of the earth, can you move our own fears, our limitations, our wars from night to day?**

Today, bring us to a deeper understanding of your power.

**Today, unite us as one human family, committing to work together toward the peace and wholeness of your creation.**

May your shalom travel throughout the universe. Amen.

*As the moon travels between the earth and the sun, consider bringing this to God in prayer, releasing expectations, allowing the power of the universe to move our own souls to participate in healing.*

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