

DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

ASH WEDNESDAY

everything [in] between intention & faith

March 5, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Prelude

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

arr. Charles Callahan

Welcome and Introduction

Silence

Call to Worship

If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found,
then you are in the right place.

If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow,
then you are in the right place.

If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence,
then you are in the right place.

God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives.

So may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season.

With God's help, may it be so.

Let us worship our all-loving God.

Hymn #153

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Red Hymnal

***Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.***

***As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.***

***And through theses days of penitence, and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore, in life and death, Jesus! with us abide.***

***Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering overpast,
an Easter of undending joy we may attain at last!***

A Meditation on Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Jesus said, "Follow me."

And I said, let me get ready.

Jesus said, "follow me."

And I said, just one minute!

Jesus said, "Follow me."

And I said, I'll be there soon!

The invitation is simple, but the work is hard.

Jesus, forgive my delay. I want to follow you.

Turn my intentions into actions. Show me the way.

Amen.

Silent Reflection

Words of Forgiveness

Lent asks,

"How will you go deeper? How will you follow Christ?"

Regardless of what that journey looks like for us,

regardless of what today, tomorrow, or the next day brings,

we are not alone.

We are seen and loved by God.

We are held in grace.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Hymn #519 "Create in Me" (choir will sing once, then congregation)

Blue Hymnal

Create in me a new heart, so that I'll give you more than part of this,

the life you've given me, create in me a new heart,

then will I teach, and others know, and I will learn, my faith will grow.

With you I can create new dreams, with you I can change lesser schemes,

O God, new joy and a new start! Create in me a new heart.

A Meditation on Ashes

Anthem

"Stay With Us"

Hovland

A Meditation on the Lord's Table

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Praise and Thanks

We praise you, God, for this table set in love for all who seek you.
Praise, too, for this company, heaven and earth assembled for the feast.
Praise for the mercy we find here, your mothering arms embracing all.

**Aware of our failings and grateful for your kindness, we ask help for our hearts,
that we may grow in love and serve with our whole lives the purposes of your
mercy and the cause of justice.**

Mindful also of everyone whose lives are marred by exclusion and pain,
we thank you for the joy we find in your house.
We call to mind every victim shamed and slaughtered by the world's powers,
every person who cries for breath.
With them, present at this table, we will tell again
the dangerous story of love triumphant over death.

Remembering Jesus

Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus.
He sided with the poor, made the sick well, welcomed sinners and ate with outcasts.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

He would not hate. He told the truth at the cost of his life.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

Betrayed and deserted by his friends, he was killed as a common criminal,
shamed and despised.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

Death could not hold him. God raised him in power from the grave.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

He returned to us without vengeance, only mercy in his hands.

He is with us now, to the end of the age.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

And we remember that on the night of betrayal, he fed us with signs of love;
a loaf, divided and shared; a cup, poured and passed from hand to hand;
a meal to eat in resistance, grace and courage for the struggle that goes on.

"Whenever you do this", he said, "remember me."

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Invitation to Come Forward

*The congregation will be guided by the deacons to come forward
for imposition of ashes and to receive communion.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you, gracious God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus: for the witness we cannot forget
and the mission of justice you have made our own.

Give us the gifts of Holy Communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn

"Hidden with Christ"

R. Bruxvoort-Colligan



Hid-den with Christ, hid - den with Christ, all of us deep with-in God's heart.



Hid-den with Christ, hid-den with Christ, all of us deep with-in God's heart.



We are the wit - nes - ses of gos - pel pos - si - bil - it - y,
Called from our wan - der - ing, and claimed — with our his - tor - y,
We are the car - ri - ers of hope for what the world can be,



lov - ing the world, liv - ing in mys - ter - y.
voice of our home, whis - per of mys - ter - y.
peop - le of faith, bear - ing the mys - ter - y.

Blessing

"A Blessing for Ash Wednesday"

written by Kate Bowler

Silent Reflection

Benediction

As we leave this place, may we find God in every messy middle.

May we know that the world is bigger than two sides.

May we trust that we are made in the image of God, and therefore, contain multitudes.

So may you move through this world with an open heart, with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.

God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between.

Believe that good news, and go in peace.

Postlude

"Abide With Me"

arr. Noel Rawsthorne

Thank you for sharing in this Ash Wednesday service with us.
You are invited to sit and listen to the postlude
and stay into the silence as long as needed.

Liturgy for tonight's service from these sources: *Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living*, edited by Rev. Mary Luti; Adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
"Hidden With Christ" text and tune Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan ©2004 This Here Music.

Participants: Rev. Nancy S. McHugh, Rev. Connie Bickford, Ben Fuller,
Josh Fuller, Rev. Bill Geertz, Joe Hesse, Pryce Lindholm,
Doreen Mayer, Molly Young
Maggie Bossi, Organist Tom Story, A/V Tech



Dennis Union Church
713 Main Street (Route 6A at Old Bass River Rd.)
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 Faith Formation for Youth & Adults: Doreen Mayer
Children's Ministries Coordinator: Evy Sirignano
Finance Secretaries: Elise Gordon and Vicki Marchant
Office Administrator: Jane Wilson
Sexton: Dave Crocker
Crib Room Attendant: Laura Sears