

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

everything [in] between faith & works

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

arr. Brenda Austin

Welcome and Announcements

Congregational Introit

Hymn 263

***Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel God’s mighty power and God’s grace.
I can hear the brush of angels’ wings, I see glory on each face;
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.***

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship

Come as you are.
If you have deep faith or your faith has run dry,
if you know every scripture
or none at all,
if you have calloused hands
and live your faith through good works,
or if you kneel at God’s feet,
with a million hungry questions,
come as you are.
This is God’s house.
None are turned away.
All are welcome here.

*Hymn #487

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Verses 1, 3 & 4

***Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.***

*Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.*

*Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!*

*Invocation

God meets us in the night—

**before the sun rises, before the wound heals,
before there are answers, before there is closure.**

God meets us in the light—

**where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious,
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
where people gather around tables.**

God meets us in between—

**at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,

**then surely God meets us everywhere— at the water's edge,
at the start of something new, after the baptism, and before the call.**

We are not alone. God is all around.

Let us worship the God of everything.

Word for the Young

Call to Confession

The story of Mary and Martha is often painted as a story
where one does right and one does wrong.

We know that life is often more complicated than that.

We know that faith is embodied through being present and taking action—
and everything in between.

Knowing this, like Mary and Martha, let us draw near to God.

Let us be honest about our lives, our hopes, and our mistakes.

For even in our messy middle, God meets us with grace.

Prayer of Confession

God of Grace,

We long to do the “right” thing.

We long to make the “right” choice.

**We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line.
In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred that is before us.
In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.
Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.
For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you.
Show us the way.
Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Faithful friends, God knows your heart.
When you mean well and lose your way, God knows.
When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows.
When you long to be close to God, and doubt your worth, God knows.
You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven. You have been sent to serve.
**This is the good news of the gospel!
Nothing can separate us from God’s love.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 10: 38-42

Homily

*Hymn #101

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

Verses 1, 4 & 5

***Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life, thou light of light,
greater than pleasure earth imparts, thy love is true and pure delight.***

***Our restless spirits yearn for thee, where’er our changeful lot is cast:
glad when thy gracious smile we see; blest when our faith can hold thee fast.***

***O Jesus, ever with us stay; make all our moments calm and bright;
banish the sin of earth, we pray; shed o’er the world thy holy light.***

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“What Wondrous Love Is This?”

Lloyd Larsen

*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

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

**+Our Mother and Father, 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 Creator/ O Holy One)

*Hymn #80

“My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”

*My Shepherd, you supply my need; most holy is your name;
in pastures fresh you make me feed, beside the living stream.
You bring my wand'ring spirit back, when I forsake your ways;
you lead me, for your mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.*

*When through the shades of death I walk, your presence is my stay;
one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
my cup with blessing overflows, your oil annoints my head.*

*Your sure provisions, gracious God, attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
Here would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
no more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.*

*Passing the Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you. (Please turn and acknowledge those around you).

*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.

Recessional

“Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott Lässt Walten”

J.S. Bach

The congregation may be seated for the music 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: Allan Fisk

Ushers and Greeters: Bob Bullard, Linda Gillespie, Jeff Gordon,
Margaret & Ted Housman, Cal Mutti, Ann & Lloyd Swaim

Flowers are given today by Ralph Aceti & Jeff Gordon to celebrate
the March 17 birthdays of Nancy Aceti and Elise Gordon.

Students from DUC will be participating in the Youth Street Reach ministry
sponsored by Cape Cod Council of Churches on Saturday, March 29.

Speak with Doreen if you can contribute breakfast items – they will be needed by
Friday evening as the youth will be traveling together to First Baptist Church in Hyannis
to set up for breakfast Saturday morning where they will be serving
our homeless brothers and sisters.

Thank you in advance for helping support our efforts!

Questions? Contact Doreen Mayer at 508-237-6998 or faithformation@duchurch.org.

everything [in] between

meeting God in the midst of extremes

Our Lenten series this year follows the Gospel of Luke through the weeks of Lent -- stories of how Jesus' ministry disrupted the established social, political and religious divides of his time.

The theme of *everything [in] between* invites us to think about parallels between Jesus' time and the cultural and political divides many of us experience in our families and communities today – and whether ideas such as **righteousness & mercy, stranger & neighbor, shouting & silence** are truly opposite ideas or if there is an answer to be found in considering the nuance and complexity in supposed opposites.

This Lent, we invite you to explore the space between the end points, polarities and easy answers to imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. We're trusting that God will show up in shades of gray, rainbow hues -- and everywhere in between.

Our book study for Lent on the book "Cherished Belonging"
by Gregory Boyle will meet on March 18 at 11 am
and each Tuesday through April 8.

Please speak to Rev. McHugh or call the office to let us know you'll be participating.

**Lenten Soup Supper and Conversation
Thursday March 27 and April 10 at 6 pm**

Please sign up on the hallway board to participate or to contribute part of the meal (soup, salad, bread - no desserts, please!). There is no text to read beforehand - topics for conversation will be provided.

**Maundy Thursday Service April 17 at 7 pm
Easter Sunday services April 20 at 6 am and 10 am**

Looking Ahead...

Beginning the week after Easter, Rev. McHugh will be taking the final third of her sabbatical. She will return to preach the second of June – Pentecost Sunday. During her time away, Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White will provide sabbatical coverage as she has previously in 2023 and 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
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**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**