

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

# everything [in] between rest & growth

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 23, 2025**

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Little Prelude in C Minor”

César Franck

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

Worship is a place to rest.  
**We breathe deeply here.**  
We still our aching bones.  
**We sit in the quiet.**  
We surround ourselves with music.  
**Worship is a place to rest.**

Worship is a place to grow.  
**We listen for God's word.**  
We invite it to challenge us.  
**We lean in with curiosity.**  
We ask questions.  
**Worship is a place to grow.**

So come into this space.  
Come rest and grow here.  
**For where two or more are gathered, God is always there.**  
Let us worship our gracious God.

\*Hymn #322

“O Word of God Incarnate”

*O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.*

*The church from you, our Savior, received the gift divine;  
and still that light is lifted o’er all the earth to shine.  
Your word is chart and compass that, all life’s voyage through,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.*

*O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold  
to bear before the nations your true light as of old.  
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this our path to trace,  
till clouds and darkness ended, we see you face to face.*

\*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.**

Youth are invited to join Faith Formation Class

Moment for Mission

Rev. Dr. John A. Terry

Anthem

“Wayfarin’ Stranger”

arr. Donald Moore

Call to Confession

Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God’s grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again.

So join me in speaking the truth of our lives, and join me in receiving God’s grace again.

## Prayer of Confession

Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.

**We stretch ourselves too thin. We say “yes” to every invitation.**

**We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.**

There are also days when we fail to act.

**We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.**

**We find excuses and justify our inaction.**

God, forgive our imbalance.

**Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.**

**Show us how to do the same. Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

**God’s grace is deeper than the ocean. God’s love is wider than the sky.**

**We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven.**

**May this realization change and inspire us.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 13: 6-9

Homily

\*Hymn

“Beneath the Soil”

see insert

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“Berceuse”

Louis Vierne

\*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

**+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 #609

“Take My Life”

Verses 1, 3 & 6

***Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.***

***Take my voice, and let me sing; unto God my praise I bring.  
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,  
filled with messages from thee.***

***Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,  
ever, only, all for thee.***

\*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

“Finale”

Alan Viner

*The congregation may be seated for the music or depart.*

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**\*Please rise in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116.  
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Everything [In] Between theme © A Sanctified Art LLC. “Beneath the Soil” Words by Anna Strickland, 2024.

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: Suzanne Paulson

Ushers and Greeters: Dennis Goyette, Mary Czajkowski & Cindy Johnson,  
Sue Schofield, Dottie Damon

Flowers are given today by Cal and Karen Mutti “In loving memory of our parents, Karen’s brother Bob, Cal’s sister Pauline and her husband Bill, and Cal’s brother Vernon”

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John Terry was ordained in 1970 as a United Church of Christ pastor. After serving churches across the country and as the interim pastor at South Church in Centerville, he began work with the Housing Assistance Corporation to do homeless outreach and to connect with churches and synagogues across the Cape.

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

Many thanks to those of you who have signed up to help!

There are a few items still needed to help feed our homeless brothers and sisters in Hyannis – check with Doreen if you can help.

Bring all donated items to Dennis Union by **5:30 pm on Friday, March 28** as our youth will be traveling together to First Baptist Church in Hyannis to set up for breakfast the following morning where we will be serving our homeless brothers and sisters. **Thank you in advance for helping us reach our donation goal!**

Questions? Contact Doreen Mayer at 508 237-6998 or [faithformation@duchurch.org](mailto:faithformation@duchurch.org).

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## everything [in] between

meeting God in the midst of extremes

### **Lenten Book Study on “Cherished Belonging”**

Our book study meets this week on March 25 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.

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

Doreen Mayer will lead the discussion for March 27 on the topic “Transformation (Not Perfection)”. Please sign up on the hallway board to participate or to contribute part of the meal.

### **Maundy Thursday Service April 17 at 7 pm**

### **Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 19 at 3 pm**

### **Easter Sunday services April 20 at 6 am and 10 am**

## **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)**

**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**