

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

everything [in] between stranger & neighbor

**First Sunday in Lent**

**March 9, 2025**

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

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

"Rockingham"

arr. Gerald Near

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

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

**Who is my neighbor? How can I help?**

**What do I have to learn? Where is God in it all?**

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

**So may we listen. May we learn.**

**May we stay curious, and may we look for God.**

This is our invitation to lean in.

Let us worship our holy God.

\*Hymn #600

"Jesu, Jesu"

Verses 1, 2 & 3

***Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.***

***Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.***

*Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,  
neighbors are near and far away. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

*These are the ones we should serve, these are the one we should love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

\*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

Anthem

“Offertory”

J.N. Beck

Gospel Reading

Luke 10:25-37

Homily

\*Hymn #491

“As Grain on Scattered Hillsides”

Verses 1 & 2

*As grain on scattered hillsides, when gathered, makes one bread,  
God, gather all your people as one in Christ our head.  
We come from many places and we are not the same,  
yet your strong love has called us to meet in Jesus' name.*

*A grain of wheat is fruitless until in earth it lies;  
then, dying to its old life, it bears and multiplies.  
So may we die to hatred, to all our hurtful ways,  
reborn to common living, to love, to work, to praise.*

## Offerings of the People

Offertory

“St. Agnes”

arr. Gerald Near

\*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 #656

“God of Freedom, God of Justice”

Verses 1 & 3

***God of freedom, God of justice, you whose love is strong as death,  
you who saw the dark of prison, you who knew the price of faith –  
touch our world of sad oppression with your Spirit's healing breath.***

***Make in us a captive conscience quick to hear, to act, to plead;  
make us truly sisters, brothers of whatever race of creed –  
teach us to be fully human, open to each other's need.***

\*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

“Toccata”

Gordon Young

*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.  
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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: Al Fisk  
Ushers and Greeters: Judy Berrien, Bob & Sally Bullard,  
Dottie Damon, Dennis & Patti Goyette

Flowers are given today by Kendall Ceban "In loving memory of Louise & Stephen Borgatti"

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Our book study for Lent on the book "Cherished Belonging"  
by Gregory Boyle begins Tuesday March 11, at 11 am  
and continues 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 13, 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**



If you have a little - or a lot - of time to give, check out the bulletin boards in the main  
hallway. There are a variety of activities and tasks that need volunteers to keep the  
ministries and work of DUC going. Sign up to help with Sunday School, coffee hour, or to  
greet and welcome our church family - there is a place for you here!

## **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.*

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**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**