

# Dennis Union Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Easter Sunday**

**April 20, 2025**

*We claim as our mission the promotion of justice, human dignity, and peace. Thus we bind ourselves to follow where the Spirit of God shall lead, revealing God's will for our lives and the life of the Church.*

Prelude "Christ lag in Todesbanden" J.S. Bach

Bells Toll the Hour That Darkness Ends  
*Stand as Christ Candle enters*

Easter Acclamation Rev. Nancy McHugh  
Alleluia!  
**Christ is risen!**  
Christ is risen indeed!  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

My dear friends, we have known grief. We have known loss.  
We have known the long road, tired and winding.  
We have whispered prayers on bended knees.  
We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.  
But today—  
**today we know hope.**  
Today we know life.  
**Today we know the sound of Alleluias.**  
Today we know that death does not have the last word.  
**Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.**  
It is Easter. May hope find you.  
And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day.  
**Alleluia! Amen.**

\*Hymn #216 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" Verses 1, 2 and 4

***Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!***  
***All creation, join to say, Alleluia!***  
***Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!***  
***Sing, O heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!***

***Lives again our glorious King. Alleluia!***  
***Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!***  
***Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!***  
***Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!***

*Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

\*Invocation

**God of love and mystery, the Christ you have raised from the dead is the Christ who lives in us. By this mystery you give us courage to love, willingness to trust, and faith to endure. Your love can't be defeated. Your presence can't be taken from us. All the powers of evil and injustice, even sin, even death, are vulnerable to your grace. May Christ rise in our hearts, fill us with your light, and lead us with joy into new lives. We pray in the continually renewing Spirit of Christ. Amen.**

Word for the Young

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told the apostles [of the resurrection]. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb." (Luke 24:10-12)

**Forgive us, God,  
when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it.  
Forgive us, God,  
when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope.  
Forgive us, God,  
when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.**

In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter.

**Show us how to hold onto hope.  
Show us how to run toward you. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Family of Faith, at first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

**God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we're grieving,  
when we're shouting and when we're silent, when we're full of faith  
and when we're full of fear. God's grace exists for us on the best days,  
the worst days, and every day in between.  
Thanks be to God for this good news! Alleluia! Amen.**

**Response**

O give thanks to the LORD, who is good, whose steadfast love endures forever!  
Let Israel say,

**“God’s steadfast love endures forever.”**

Let the house of Aaron say,

**“God’s steadfast love endures forever.”**

Let those who fear the LORD say,

**“God’s steadfast love endures forever.”**

**Response**

The LORD is my strength and my might;

**the LORD has become my salvation.**

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

**“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted;  
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”**

I shall not die, but I shall live

**and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

**Response**

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

**The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Response**

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24: 1-12

Homily

Anthem

“He Is Not Here, He Has Risen”  
Claudia Landall, organ

A. Pote

**\*Easter Affirmation**

In the dark before dawn,

**we believe that God is alive.**

In the midst of our grief,

**we believe the Spirit is at work.**



*'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;  
all the winter of our sins, long and bleak, is flying  
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.*

*Now the brightest season dawns with the day of splendor,  
now the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;  
come to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.*

\*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

Because the tomb is empty, our lives can be full, so go into every place and every day as people brimming with the love of God. Be graceful in spirit, hopeful in word, faithful in deed. Live for the risen Christ as Christ lives in you!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

Postlude

"O Filii et Filiae"

F. Dandrieu

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**\*Please stand in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116. Invocation from *Unfolding Light: Daily Reflections and Worship Resources* by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes. Other liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Everything [In] Between theme © A Sanctified Art LLC.

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: Al Fisk  
Ushers and Greeters: Bob & Sally Bullard, Mary Czajkowski,  
Darlene Fisk, Gary Forrister, Earl Springer

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**We collected 1,332 filled Easter Eggs for our Community Easter Egg Hunt!**  
**Way to go Dennis Union Church Family!**  
**Thank you very much for sharing your gifts and taking the time**  
**to fill eggs for our community and neighbors!**

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)