

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

everything [in] between righteousness & mercy

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**April 6, 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.*

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

“Folktune”

C. Callahan

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

We come to worship because we long for mercy.

**We long for community.**

**We long for God.**

We come to worship because we need a good word.

**We need connection.**

**We need moral reminders.**

We come to worship because we are in between:

**hope and grief, faith and doubt,**

**joy and longing, curiosity and conviction.**

So we come to worship and God meets us here.

**Surely, we are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen.**

\*Hymn

“Righteous Mercy”

see end of bulletin – verses 1 and 3 only

\*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.**

Anthem

“Ubi Caritas”

Gjeilo

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, When we fail to be righteous, show us mercy.**

**When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right.**

**Again and again, bring us closer to you.**

**Again and again, show us the way.**

**Amen.**

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Grace

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:

When we fail to be righteous,

**God is merciful.**

When we fail to be merciful,

**God invites us to try again.**

Again and again,

**God moves closer to us.**

Again and again,

**God shows us the way.**

Thanks be to God for this unending love.

**Amen.**

### **Reception of New Members**

Deborah & Paul Adkins, Alyssa Davis, Barbara & John Everett,  
John & Susan Gregory-Davis

Introduction and Questions to the Candidates

## Litany of Ministry<sup>1</sup> (responsive)

Blessed are those who yearn for deepening more than escape;  
who are not afraid to grow in spirit.

**Blessed are those who take seriously the meaning of being in covenant with one another  
and with God and who regularly join in the celebration and learning; who come as much  
to minister as to be ministered unto.**

Blessed are those who bring their children; who invite their friends to come along, to join in  
fellowship, service, learning and growth.

**Blessed are those who support the church and its work by their regular, sustained, and  
generous giving through time, talent and resources.**

Blessed are those who know that the church is often imperfect, yet are willing to  
constructively work and talk through with compassion the concerns that surface in living  
together in community.

**Blessed are those who, when asked to serve, do it gladly, who realize that change is  
brought about through human meeting, who do the work of committees, and stay till the  
end.**

Blessed are those who speak their minds in meetings, who can take and give constructive  
feedback, who keep alive their sense of humor.

**Blessed are those who know that the work of the church is transformation of society;  
who have a vision of God's love made known in the Beloved Community transcending  
the present, and who do not shrink from hard work, sacrifice or change.**

**Blessed are they, indeed! Amen.**

## \*Congregational Welcome

**We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you  
our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of  
Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together  
in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of that love in the world.**

## Prayer

Welcome and Right Hand of Fellowship

Gospel Reading

Luke 19:1-10

## Homily

\*Hymn #398

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

***Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;  
Savior, abide with us, and spread thy table in our heart.***

*There sup with us in love divine; thy body and thy blood,  
that living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.*

### Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and good to give God thanks and praise.**

Sanctus

*Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!*

*My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord.*

Words of Institution

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Choral Response

*The gifts of God for the people of God! Come now, for all is prepared!*

*The gifts of God for the people of God! The Gospel is among us.*

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*Please hold each element so we can partake together as a congregation*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Thank you for this meal shared in the company of friends.**

**Having rested and been fed, may we go from this place committed to feeding any person who hungers for love, offering the same blessings we have received. Amen.**

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier”

J.S. Bach

\*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.*

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 #73 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

***There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.***

***There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good!  
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.***

***For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.***

***If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God's word;  
and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.***

\*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

"March from 'Scipio' "

G.F. Handel

*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.

<sup>1</sup> Litany of Ministry is from *Singing the Living Tradition*, UUA, 1993. Other liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. "Righeous Mercy" by Anna Strickland, 2023. Everything [In] Between theme © A Sanctified Art LLC.

We welcome new members to the DUC congregation today and invite everyone to greet them during Fellowship Hour downstairs in the Lower Hall.

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: Joe Hesse

Ushers and Greeters: Dottie Damon, Alyssa Davis, Mary Czajkowski,  
Karen Mutti, Ann & Lloyd Swaim

Flowers are given today by Annmarie Gavin "In loving memory of my husband Steve"

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## 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.

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**The book study for Lent on the book "Cherished Belonging" by Gregory Boyle concludes this Tuesday April 8 at 11 am.**

**Lenten Soup Supper and Conversation 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!).

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

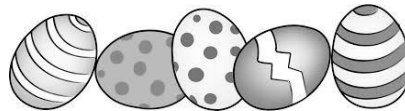
**Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 19 at 3 pm**

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

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Thanks for your enthusiastic response to our call for filled Easter Eggs! Please return your filled eggs by next Sunday April 13 and check the sign-up boards for ways you can help with the event on Saturday April 19.

**The hunt is open to the community -- please spread the word!**



Church members and friends are invited to purchase flowers for the church sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Easter lilies and tulips are \$20 each.

Nancy Walsh will be accepting donations for flowers at Fellowship Hour today or you may call the office to leave your dedication and flower selection.

# Righteous Mercy

HYFRYDOL ("Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus")

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Rowland H. Prichard, 1830;  
harm. Ralph Vaugh Williams, 1906



Since our child - hood you have taught us what is wrong  
Though there's wide - ness in your mer - cy, let us not  
Far too of - ten we hold on - to an - ger dressed



and what is right Nur - tur - ing our sense of  
a - buse that grace Called in - to this Chris - tian  
as righ - teous - ness We for - get we serve a



jus - tice, fuel - ing us to work and fight Keep that  
jour - ney, let our lives re - flect our faith When we  
God who calls us to re - la - tion - ship So when



fire for jus - tice burn - ing in the sha - dow  
fal - ter and fall short of our com - mit - ment  
those who caused us harm re - pent and choose a



of our fear E - ven there your Spi - rit's stir - ring,  
to your will Hold us, wrap - ping us in your love  
bet - ter way Spi - rit move our venge - ful hearts



light - ing us a path that's clear  
as we work toward whole - ness still  
to choose love in - stead of wrath

## **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**