

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

PALM SUNDAY

everything [in] between shouting & silence

Sixth Sunday in Lent

April 13, 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

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Prepare the Way” (from “Holy Week Piano Suite”)

Chuck Bell

A vivid musical description of Jesus riding the humble donkey into Jerusalem

\*Call to Worship

On this day, Jesus marched

**in between the city walls and the Temple,  
in between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,  
in between oppressive poverty and greedy power,  
in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.**

On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been and what could be.

**So may we meet Christ in that liminal space.**

**May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.**

Hosanna in the highest!

**Hosanna in between!**

\*Hymn #192

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Children’s Palm Procession

***All glory, laud, and honor, to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!  
You are a child of Israel, Great David’s greater son;  
you ride in lowly triumph, Messiah, blessed one!***

***The company of angels are praising you on high,  
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.***

***To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;  
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.  
As you received their praises, now hear us as we pray.  
Since you delight in goodness, rule in our hearts today.***

\*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

“Shout, Sing, Celebrate”

John Parker & Joel Raney

Ben Fuller and Pryce Lindholm, percussion; Lois André, solo

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Great Creator, forgive me

**when I speak before listening,  
when I speak over my neighbor,  
when I speak with barbed words.**

Creator God, forgive me

**when I listen to society,  
when I listen to my friends,  
when I listen to the news,  
but I do not listen to you.**

Creator God, forgive me

**when I shout out, but do not shout your name,  
when I listen, but do not listen for your voice.  
Forgive me.**

Create in me a heart like yours.

**Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, whether or not you stuck to your Lenten goals this year,  
whether or not this is your first time in church or your thousandth time,  
whether or not you know to speak to God or listen for God's voice,  
God listens to you. God is merciful.

God is abounding in steadfast love.

There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could keep God from loving you.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**We are seen. We are heard. We are loved. We are forgiven.**

**Not a day goes by that we ever walk alone.**

**Hosanna in the highest! Amen.**

\*Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that many years ago a peaceful parade  
wove its way through the streets of Jerusalem.**

**We believe that on that day the people cried out,  
longing and praying for a better world.**

**We believe that these longings came from a place of deep hope, and  
we believe that hope cannot be silenced.**

**So we listen for the Spirit.**

**We sing Hosanna.**

**We pay attention.**

**For in between the silence and the song,  
we believe the Spirit is speaking.**

**Amen.**

Hebrew Scripture

Zechariah 9: 9-10

Gospel Reading

Luke 19:29-40

Homily

\*Hymn #193

“A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd”

Verses 1, 4 & 5

Sung to the tune of MORNING SONG

***A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare,  
and hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air.***

***Lest we be fooled because our hearts have surged with passing praise  
remind us, God, as this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.***

***Instead of palms a winding sheet will have to be unrolled,  
a carpet much more fit to greet the king a cross will hold.***

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Kevin McChesney

Prayer of Dedication

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 #141

"A Stable Lamp Is Lighted"

Choir will sing first verse, congregation stands and sings verses 2, 3 & 4.

***A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;  
the stars shall bend their voices, and ev'ry stone shall cry.  
And ev'ry stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine;  
a barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.***

***This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by;  
the palm shall strew its branches, and ev'ry stone shall cry.  
And ev'ry stone shall cry, though heavy, dull, and dumb,  
and lie within the roadway to pave his kingdom come.***

***Yet he shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die;  
the sky shall groan and darken, and ev'ry stone shall cry.  
And ev'ry stone shall cry, for hearts made hard by sin:  
God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again.***

***But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high;  
the stars shall bend their voices, and ev'ry stone shall cry.  
And ev'ry stone shall cry, in praises of the child  
by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.***

\*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.

*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. Liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Everything [In] Between theme © A Sanctified Art LLC.

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: Suzanne Paulson

Ushers and Greeters: Annmarie Gavin, Jeff Gordon, Steve Higgins, Marla Ker, Judy November, Jane Wilson

Flowers are given today by Dory & Lee Marchildon  
"In memory of the O'Brien and Marchildon families"

Ushering and greeting on Sunday morning is a great way to do your part to make DUC a welcoming place. If you have served as an usher or greeter – or if you would like to – please sign up on the hallway clipboard. There are openings to fill later in April and in May and experienced folks will be glad to help if this is a new task for you.

Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White will be covering for Rev. McHugh April 27 – May 25 during her upcoming sabbatical leave, and then Rev. John Terry and Doreen Mayer will be our guest preachers for the remaining weeks. Nancy will return to the office as of June 2.

### **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.*

# everything [in] between

meeting God in the midst of extremes

Our Lenten series this year has followed the Gospel of Luke each week of Lent. With stories of how Jesus' ministry disrupted the established social, political and religious divides of his time. As Holy Week begins, we invite you to participate in the services and events listed below:

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

Thursday evening, we will gather to remember and reflect upon the life, ministry and passion of Jesus Christ. This service moves us from Thursday evening to Saturday evening with growing darkness.

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

We will be welcoming the community to our congregation to enjoy a fun afternoon of sweet treats, surprises and meeting our congregation! Rain or Shine!

850 filled Easter eggs were delivered this past Sunday for the hunt. Well done DUC! Many thanks to all who brought eggs. Our goal is still 1000 eggs for the event. All donations are greatly appreciated!

## **Easter Sunday services April 20 at 6 am and 10 am Join our congregation to celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection!**

The early service will take place on the front patio and is in-person only. Hot coffee will be available.

Our 10 am service will include music from our Chancel Choir and musicians from the Bell Choir. Children are invited to join Evy for an Easter story and crafts during the service. Visitors and friends are welcome! The service will also be streamed online.

---

**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**