

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ



Third Sunday of Easter

Communion Sunday

May 4, 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

"Sing Praise"

arr. Helvey

Bette Anne Crowell, piano

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship

(from Psalm 30)

We glorify you, O Lord for you have lifted us up.

O Lord, our God, we cried out to you and you healed us.

Sing praises to the Lord, O faithful ones, and praise God's holy name.

For God's anger is but for a moment, but God's favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

O God, you have turned our mourning into dancing!

Let us worship God!

*Hymn #233

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, risen now to reign in love.

Alleluia! Praise the Savior; with the multitudes above.

There the songs of saints and martyrs thunder like a mighty flood,

"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans we are left in sorrow now.

Alleluia! Christ is near us, faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er,

shall our hearts forget the promise, "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of Heaven, be on earth our food and stay.

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.

Intercessor, friends of sinners, earth's redeemer, plead for me,

where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

*Invocation

In the wake of the rising of the One we call Christ, we gather as a people of sanctuary, as a people of Sabbath, ever seeking God's presence, ever in awe of the new life around us. Accept our music as a gift, our words as an offering, our dance as service, our breath as worship. Amen.

Anthem

"Sit Down, Servant"

arr. Shackley

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Maker of us all

Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, servant of the poor

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

Have mercy on us.

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(Silence)

Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:

to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness:

to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,

and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Isaiah 25:6-9

Luke 24:13-49

Homily

Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White

*Hymn #393

"One Bread, One Body"

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

*Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.*

*Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.*

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

It is right and good to give God our 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

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

Lord God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal and these people,

we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as a changed people,

because we have shared in the living bread and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, and encourage

many through us. It is through your grace that we have been created for this.

Amen.

Offering/Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

**Lord God, we offer to you only a portion of what you have given us.
All that we have is through your creative hand. All that we can give we do
through Jesus' love. All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit's wisdom.
Deal graciously with these gifts so that others may know joy. Amen.**

*Hymn #517

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Verses 1, 2 & 4

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest;
take away our love of sinning; alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

*Sending Forth

Take our hands in your hands

You know we love you.

Wrap our lives in your life.

You know we trust you.

Call our names in friendship.

You know that we will follow you.

Risen Jesus

Send us out in justice and joy!

Before we leave this time of worship let us greet one another
with the peace of Jesus the Christ, who seeks peace in broken relationships,
who seeks healing in alienated persons, who seeks justice in oppressive structures.
Let us share in this shalom with one another.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you. (Please turn and acknowledge those around you).

*Benediction

Recessional

"Easter Praise"

Ron & Linda Sprunger

The congregation may remain seated during the postlude or depart.

***Please rise in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116.
Parts of today's liturgy adapted from the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*.

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: Peter Berrien

Ushers and Greeters: Nancy & Ralph Aceti, Mary Czajkowski, Steve Higgins,
John & Suzanne Paulson, Emily Woudenberg

Flowers are given today by Cheryl & Michael Cerbone

"In loving memory of Cheryl's parents Ruth & Charles Williams"

Part-Time Finance Secretary Position Available

The Finance Office is looking for a part-time Finance Secretary for approximately 6 to 8 hours per week (two flexible 3 to 4-hour shifts each week) to assist in the DUC Finance Office. If you or someone you know has basic computer skills and experience with Excel spreadsheets and is familiar with (or willing to learn) payroll and some basic accounting procedures this is the job for you. Interested persons should submit a resume to office@duchurch.org for further information about this great opportunity.

Blankets for Mother's Day

Sunday, May 11 is Mother's Day and **Blanket Sunday** at Dennis Union Church.

This event is sponsored by Church World Service and is so easy to participate in. Just \$10 buys a blanket that may be given to a resident of a homeless shelter, to a traveling migrant or to the victims of a house fire.

When most of us think of how or why we would use a blanket, it is for warmth, but it might also be a pillow, a bed, a covering for a broken window, a table, a tent, a coat or even a suitcase. These blankets reach our neighbors near and far.

To purchase a blanket(s), please make checks out to DUC with "blankets" in the memo line. We will have a special collection during worship on May 11; envelopes will be available on the hallway table the next couple of weeks as well as "In Honor of" cards that can be mailed to thank that special "mother" in your life.

Rhubarb needed for Country Store Pies!

Pies made with rhubarb are highly sought after at the Country Store booth at the Auction in August. Maggie is planning ahead – if anyone has rhubarb plants and would like to donate to the cause, please leave the cut stalks in a bag in the upstairs kitchen, so she can freeze the rhubarb now and have rhubarb and strawberry-rhubarb pies later. Thank you!

FUNDRAISERS FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

CAR WASH Saturday, May 10 from 9 to 11 am
Dennis Union Church (Back parking lot)
- Good will offering accepted -

SUNDAY BRUNCH Sunday, May 18 at 11am (after worship)

Suggested Donation: \$12.00 per person or \$25 per family of 3 people or more.

Chef Steve Higgins and Laurie are cooking it up in the kitchen just for you serving a delicious menu of brunch favorites.

To help with planning, let us know you will attend by emailing Doreen at faithformation@duchurch.org or there is a sign-up list on the hallway bulletin board.

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
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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 Secretary: Elise Gordon
Office Administrator: Jane Wilson
Sexton: Dave Crocker
Crib Room Attendant: Laura Sears