

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 24, 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

"Trumpet March"

G.F. Handel

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silent Reflection

\*Call to Worship (from Psalm 136)

Josh Fuller

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
**For his steadfast love endures forever.**

Who alone does great wonders,  
**For his steadfast love endures forever.**

Who by understanding made the heavens, spread out the earth on the waters,  
**For his steadfast love endures forever.**

Who leads his people through the wilderness, remembers us in our low estate,  
and rescues us from our foes.

**O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.**

\*Hymn #3

"The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore"

*The sun is on the sea and shore, a new day has begun;  
with morning hymns we will adore the blessed Three-in-One;  
and we shall praise you evermore until the day is done.*

*Your love is ever in our view, like shining stars by night;  
your gifts are every morning new, O God of love and light;  
your mercy, like the heaven's blue, fills all our dazzled sight.*

*We do not know what grief and care each coming day may bring;  
the heart shall find some gladness there that trusts you in each thing;  
the life that serves you everywhere will never cease to sing.*

\*Invocation

Pryce Lindholm

**Gracious Light Bearer, Into the shadows of our isolation you speak words of life and community. Challenger of our lives, you call us from places we call home to lead us more deeply into the world you love. With your gentle, healing touch you redeem the broken places of our lives and you heal the wounded places of the earth. Inspire our worship**

**here this day, so that we may receive liberation in your word,  
and be filled to overflowing to share your reconciling love  
throughout the earth. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

Mission Trip Report

Anthem "Down to the River to Pray" arr. Curry

Scripture Reading Luke 15:11; 25-32

Homily "The Elder Son" Doreen Mayer

\*Hymn #340 "Softly and Tenderly"

***Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;  
patient and loving, he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.  
Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling – calling, "O Sinner, come home!"***

***Why should we linger when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we wait, then, and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?  
Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling – calling, "O Sinner, come home!"***

***O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me;  
tho' we have sinned he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.  
Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling – calling, "O Sinner, come home!"***

Offerings of the People Norah Young

Choral Thanksgiving Hymn #528 - Verse 5 only

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.  
And now let the weak say "I am strong"; let the poor say "I am rich"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks!***

Joys and Concerns of the Community

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

**+Creator God, 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/O Holy One)

\*Hymn

“God of My Breathing”

Verses 1, 4 & 6

*God of my breathing and God of my heart,  
Spirit embodied in all human parts,  
would that this body from head to the toes,  
bring forth your glory in all that I know.*

*God of my footsteps and God of my path,  
where these feet travel may they know no lack.  
Shoes on the pavement or toes in the soil,  
carry your servant where Christ bids them go.*

*God of my limits and God of all truth,  
you who have knit me with joy in the womb,  
would that this body from head to the toes,  
bring forth your glory in all that I know.*

\*Sending Forth / Passing of the Peace

Ben Fuller

The Spirit of God is upon us.

**God has anointed us to bear good news to the afflicted  
and to bind up the broken hearted.**

To proclaim freedom to the captives.

**To open the prisons of those who are bound.**

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.

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

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

\*Benediction

Postlude

“Trumpet March”

J.S. Bach

*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.

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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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We welcome back Nash Ten Hagen on trumpet for our prelude and postlude.

Flowers are provided today by Ted and Margaret Housman  
in honor of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Deacon of the Day: Allan Fisk  
Ushers: Sally Bullard, Annmarie Gavin, Lisa Sherman  
Greeters: Bob Bullard, Marla Ker, Jeff & Judy Mereschuk

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We are grateful to have our "Pick-Up" Choir at worship through September 7. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited to join in - visitor or member. The choir meets at 9 am on Sundays to rehearse an anthem that is well-known to the choir, so you'll be able to lean on other voices. Casual dress - no robes. Take a chance!

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Students from Youth Fellowship are participating in the service today and also are sharing thoughts about their recent mission trip.

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Barbara Lussier is at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston;  
if you would like to send her a card, please send c/o her daughter:  
Kathy Lussier, 145 Lette Road, Seekonk MA 02771

Kathy will deliver them as Barbara continues her recovery.

Save the Date!  
DUC Homecoming September 14  
BBQ and Potluck Luncheon

### **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 Doreen Mayer**  
**Office Administrator: Jane Wilson**  
**Sexton: Dave Crocker**  
**Crib Room Attendant: Laura Sears**