

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 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

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship¹

Come together, joining hands and hearts.

Let our hands be links of chain that hold our lives together –

Not a chain of bondage but a silver cord of strength,

a ribbon of love, faith and community.

Giving us slack to sail the wind, yet holding us in a mystical embrace,

that we may be alone but never lonely,

that we may be together but never lost in the crowd,

That we may be one without forfeiting uniqueness.

Come together, joining hands and hearts,

and let the spirit of God and the human spirit flow in and through us all

as we gather to share this time and space

and the wonders of our journey of faith. Amen.

*Hymn #280

“God Is Here!”

Verses 1, 2 & 3

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,

may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts

wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;

here are table, fount, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,

here, in newness and renewal, God the spirit comes to each.

*Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.*

*Invocation

**Living God, you meet us in unexpected places and surprise us
with the abundance of your love. You companion us on life's journey
and accept us as we are. In this time of worship and prayer, open our hearts
to the stirring of your spirit. May we hear your Word, sing songs of praise
and encounter your very presence in the mystery of the bread of life
and the fruit of the vine. Amen**

Contemporary Reading

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer:

Prayer of Confession

Awe-inspiring God, we come together this day because we need to be reminded
to see through the lens of mystery and wonder. Too often, we relegate what is always
amazing to what is ever familiar, forgetting that there are mysteries and miracles
in the ordinariness of our lives.

**Open us to perceive anew. Inspire us to receive our surroundings with awe.
Forgive us when we focus only on what's wrong rather than allowing the right
and good to show us the way forward. Be with us on this journey as we seek
again to marvel at your works.**

Silence

Assurance of Grace

Be still and know that God is God. Wonders never cease and God forgives us.
Jesus embraces us. The spirit enlivens us. We are whole.
With awe, we accept being beloved and together we say:
Thanks be to God. Amen!

Anthem

"Divinum Mysterium"

Hebrew Scripture

Proverbs 2 (from the Inclusive Bible)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24: 13-35

Homily

"Are We open to wonder and mystery?"

*Hymn #409

"I Hunger and I Thirst"

***I hunger and I thirst; Jesus, my manna be!
O living waters, burst out of the rock for me!***

***O bruised and broken Bread, my lifelong needs supply.
As living souls are fed, so feed me, or I die.***

***O true life-giving Vine, let me your goodness prove.
By your life sweeten mine, refresh my soul with love.***

***For still the desert lies behind me and before:
O living waters, rise within me evermore!***

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

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the mysterious power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offerings of the People

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. (repeat)
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. (repeat)***

***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

**+O God of mystery and wonder, 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)**

*Hymn² "For Grace in Creation" Tune "Let All Things Now Living" (THE ASH GROVE)

***For grace in Creation, and for our salvation,
O God, in thanksgiving we joyfully sing.
For giving us Jesus, who heals us and frees us,
who walks with us daily, our glad praise we bring.
God, holy and mighty, your glory shines brightly!
Hosanna on high! Love, your praise we proclaim!
Your welcome is spacious; your table is gracious.
God, bles-sed is each one who comes in your name.***

***Now humbly expressing our thanks for your blessing
we feast in the presence of your loving son.
Love, pour out your Spirit, that we may inherit
your love and compassion, and make us all one.
With this bread and cup, fill our hearts, lift us up
and re-make us, the Body of Christ once again!
With gracious self-giving in all our living
we offer ourselves and we praise you! Amen.***

*Sending Forth

**May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you. (Please turn and acknowledge those around you).**

*Benediction

Recessional

The congregation may be seated for the music or depart/exit.

***Please rise in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116. Portions of our liturgy today are adapted from ¹*Touch Holiness* by Duck and Tirabassi and *Purveyors of Awe*, Worship Design Studio, Marcia McFee. ²Hymn Lyrics by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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: Linda Gillespie, Priscilla Hutchison, Sue Schofield

Greeters: Annmarie Gavin, Marla Ker

Flowers are given today by Nancy & Ralph Aceti

"In loving memory of our mothers Jessie Aceti and Gertrude Colpitts"

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction is now "live" for bidding online through 6 pm on Sunday, August 10.

The "Silent Auction" is a very successful part of DUC's annual Auction & Bazaar. Thanks to everyone who has gathered contributions and made donations for our Auction efforts.



Follow the QR code to view the available offerings for the Silent Auction or visit

<https://www.accelevents.com/e/2025-dennis-union-church-silent-auction#auction> to track the progress of your bids!

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 Secretaries: Elise Gordon and Doreen Mayer
Office Administrator: Jane Wilson
Sexton: Dave Crocker
Crib Room Attendant: Laura Sears