

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 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 "Sonata No. 1" originally for glass harmonica J.G. Naumann (1741-1801)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silent Reflection

*Call to Worship

Creator God, you are the fountain of life.

We turn to you. We drink from you. We rejoice in you.

Risen Christ, our loving brother, you set us free.

You feed us at the banquet of your grace. We give thanks to you.

Holy Spirit, you fill us with humility, generosity and compassion.

Alleluia! We open our hearts to you. Come and fill us.

Come, Holy Spirit,

transform us by your grace. Alleluia!

*Hymn #27 "Come, Thou Almighty King"

*Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing; help us to praise:
one God, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
come, and reign over us, ancient of days.*

*Come, thou incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword; our prayer attend:
come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.*

*Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour!
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.*

*To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore.*

*Invocation

Gracious God, our pride means nothing before you. You bless the humble and feed the poor. Like beggars we come to you. Like children we open our hands to your grace. Give us the humility of Christ, that we may embody his generosity and hospitality, in the power of your Spirit. Come to us, God; speak to us, and feed our souls. Amen.

Anthem

“Psalm 23” from ‘The Vicar of Dibley’

Howard Goodall

Call to Confession

In humility let us seek forgiveness,
trusting in the promises of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, forgive us for we exalt ourselves and mock the humble.
We choose to believe we are self-sufficient rather than trust in your strength.
Open us to your spirit, that we might serve all people without regard to the outcome, devoting ourselves to your honor alone. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Assurance of Grace

God rejoices when we repent and return, offering us finest wheat
and honey from the rock to sustain us in new life.
Rejoice! For you have been reconciled to God and to one another.
With joy, seek the honor God’s service.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 14: 1, 7-14

Homily

*Hymn #342

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

***Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.***

***O Lord with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling
have spoken my name; now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.***

***You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold or no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor.***

***O Lord with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling
have spoken my name; now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.***

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.
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 #10

"Bring Many Names"

Verses 1, 4, 5 & 6

*Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story, holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!*

*Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises, glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God.*

*Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness, crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!*

*Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing, closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!*

*Sending Forth / Passing of the Peace

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

Recessional

“Fanfare”

Buxtehude

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.
Today's liturgy adapted from: unfoldinglight.com and *Feasting on the Word Year C Vol 2*.

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.

We are grateful to have the “Pick-Up” Choir at worship through September 7. Our “regular” Chancel and Bell Choirs will resume rehearsals this coming week on Wednesday, September 3.
Please see Maggie Bossi if you are interested in joining.

Deacon of the Day: Bob Bullard
Ushers: Peter Berrien, Patti Goyette, Judy November
Greeters: Jeff Gordon, Karen Mutti

Flowers are provided today by Elise & Jeff Gordon
“In honor of Jeff's dad Norm Gordon”.

DUC Homecoming - BBQ and Potluck Luncheon September 14

We'll supply beverages, burgers & hot dogs - you bring a friend and a side dish to share. Everyone is invited to Join the DUC congregation and family as we kick off a new school year of Faith Formation classes and events and activities for all ages!

On September 14, Sunday School is in session for Grades K-3 & 4-8;
students Grades 9-12 will attend worship.

Sign-ups for the Potluck are outside the church office!

CALL TO COMMUNION

Next Sunday, September 7, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper, the common meal of bread and wine that our Lord shared with disciples on the night he was betrayed.
All are welcome at the table.

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

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