

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 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

"Duet for Flute and Flute Stop"

J.L. Krebs

Welcome and Announcements

Congregational Introit

***Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.***

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship

Why have we gathered on this holy day?
What has drawn us to this time and place?
**The flame that burns but does not consume has drawn our attention.
We sense the glory of God is near.**
God calls us to this time of worship.
The place where we are standing is holy ground.
**Give thanks to God; sing praises.
Listen and you will hear the voice of God.**
Out of the burning bush, God spoke to Moses.
In the rhythms of worship, God speaks to us.
**We will listen for God's message to us.
Surely God is in this place.**

*Hymn #458

"Ours the Journey"

Verses 1, 2 & 3

***In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering their sep'rate ways?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and evermore.***

*Through the flood of starving peoples, warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and evermore.*

*Though we reach the highest heavens, holding worlds at our command,
we are yet a desert people searching for the promised land.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and evermore.*

*Invocation

**Most holy God, we do not take off our shoes for worship, nor do we set you apart
in a holy of holies visited only by priests. Still, we come to you with awe
and wonder, aware of the mystery of life, reverent before your holy love
and power. Sharpen our awareness of the sacred; startle us with the joy
of discipleship; and strengthen us to accept the cost of following Jesus Christ.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Word for the Young

Evy Sirignano

Anthem "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love" Ghana Folk Song, arr. Steve Strite

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

Responsive Prayer of Confession¹

Lord God, we have given more weight to our successes and our happiness
than to your will.

We have eaten without a thought for the hungry.

We have spoken without an effort to understand others.

We have kept silence instead of telling the truth.

We have judged others, forgetful that you alone are the Judge.

**We have acted rather in accordance with our opinions
than according to your commands.**

Within your Church we have been slow to practice love of our neighbours.

And in the world we have not been your faithful servants.

Forgive us and help us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour.

Silence

Reassurance of Grace²

God forgives; God makes peace within us;
we claim this healing, in faith and hope. Amen.

Homily

*Hymn #663

“Go Down, Moses”

Verses 1, 2 & 3

***When Israel was in Egypt's land; let my people go,
oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land. Tell old Pharoah, let my people go.***

***No more shall they in bondage toil, let my people go,
let them come out with Egypt's spoil, let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land. Tell old Pharoah, let my people go.***

***The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go,
to lead the Hebrew children through, let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land. Tell old Pharoah, let my people go.***

Offerings of the People

“Song of the Quail, for Flute Stops”

F. J. Haydn

*Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God for all that love has done!
Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.***

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 #489

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

***Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.***

***Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.***

***Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.***

***Sending Forth**

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

"The Fifers"

Jean-Francoise Dandrieu

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.

¹Conference of European Churches, 9th Assembly, 1986, Stirling, Scotland in *Resources to Lift Up our Voices* by Tirabassi and Eddy. ²*Touch Holiness*, R.C. Duck and M.C. Tirabassi.

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: Gary Forrister

Ushers: Mary Czajkowski, Elise Gordon, Earl Springer

Greeters: Jeff Gordon, Patti Goyette

Flowers are given today by the family of Paul Woudenberg

"In loving memory of Paul"

**We welcome back Hannah Chung on flute today. All of the organ music features
the flute stops of our beautiful Casavant pipe organ.**

Warmly welcoming our members and visitors is an important part of Sunday worship at DUC. It
is easy to participate -- just sign up on the clipboard by the church office, and one of the Deacons
or an "experienced" usher or greeter will explain the routine and work with you.

Sundays are open for sign ups through the end of the year!

Grateful Gatherings
Dinner, Bible Study and Games for Students Grades 9 - 12
Sundays, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Students will gather to cook and share a meal together followed by group discussion focused on the Bible, God and faith. Student guests are welcome, too.

To RSVP and for more information, call or text
Doreen Mayer, Director of Faith Formation 508-237-6998.

CALL TO COMMUNION
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 5

Communion is a sacred meal that unites Christians across every culture and community. Next Sunday is World Communion Sunday, and we remember that when we share the bread and cup, we are joining with believers around the world at Christ's table.
There is a place for everyone at the table here at Dennis Union.

Join the Barnstable Association in working together for World Central Kitchen

All churches of the Barnstable Association are invited to have members make donations for the BA Food Initiative. Each church will collect funds on World Communion Sunday and send them to the Barnstable Association so that one check can be sent to World Central Kitchen.

Please consider donating the cost of a meal to help put food on someone else's table. Checks may be made out to DUC with World Central Kitchen/WCK in the memo line, or cash donations made using the purple envelopes in the pews.

Barnstable Association Fall Fellowship
Sunday, September 28 at 2 pm at Mattapoisett Congregational Church

Barnstable, Old Colony, and Pilgrim and Rhode Island Associations of the Southern New England UCC are hosting a Biblical scholar, Rev. Peter Miano, who will reflect on why three religions consider the same place holy and how history has influenced this belief. The lecture will include a biblical investigation and contemporary context. Please see Rev. McHugh if you are interested in more info or attending the gathering.

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
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