

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

## COMMUNION SUNDAY

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 7, 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

"Canon (Sarabande)"

L. Couperin (1626-1661)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silent Reflection

\*Call to Worship

God has gifted us with a beautiful world, brimming with life and possibilities.

**Thanks be to God.**

God has given us breath to live, spirit to sing, and talents to share.

**Thanks be to God.**

God loves us with a love that never ends.

**Thanks be to God.**

God has gathered us into this community of care and worship.

**We lift our hearts and voices in praise of our generous God!**

\*Hymn<sup>1</sup>

"Song of Earth"

Melody: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

***Hail the Earth that first appeared. Alleluia!***

***When a word from God was heard. Alleluia!***

***Let the Earth arise and be. Alleluia!***

***Filled with living mystery. Alleluia!***

***Hail the planet blue and green. Alleluia!***

***Where the face of God is seen. Alleluia!***

***Glory filling all the earth. Alleluia!***

***Celebrating every birth. Alleluia!***

***Hail our body made with clay. Alleluia!***

***Given breath to praise and pray. Alleluia!***

***Clay God honoured by God's birth. Alleluia!***

***As a human life on Earth. Alleluia!***

***Hail the groans of Earth in pain. Alleluia!  
From the weight of human sin. Alleluia!  
Longing for the Christ who died. Alleluia!  
All creation to revive. Alleluia!***

Sunday School Students Depart for Class

\*Invocation

**Creating God, you are the source of summer's splendor the beauty and fragrance of delicate flowers, and sweet sound of birdsong. We come to you this morning with delight and gladness, grateful for all of your wonders. As the fields produce their harvest, may your love grow within us, that we too may produce a harvest of love, hope, and joy. Amen.**

Anthem

"Now Is the Cool of the Day"

trad. Jean Ritchie, arr. Siegfried

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer:**

Prayer of Confession

**Loving Creator, you have formed us, given us breath, and supplied our every need. And yet we are slow to recognize your blessings, quick to doubt and criticize, and eager to blame others for our own shortcomings. Forgive us when we fail to reflect the unconditional love of the One who made us. Have mercy on us and claim us once again as your own.**

Silence

Assurance of Grace

The Lord hears our every cry and grants forgiveness when we repent.  
Receive the promise that cannot be taken away; you are a child of God,  
loved, pardoned, and blessed forever. Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

Adaptation from Genesis 1:1-2:2

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.  
Now the earth was a formless void. There was darkness over the deep.  
God's spirit hovered over the water...

**"And God saw that it was good."**

God said, "Let there be light and there was light. God saw that the light was good.  
God divided light from darkness. God called the light, "day", and the darkness, "night"...

**"And God saw that it was good."**

God said, "Let the waters under the heavens come together into a single mass and let dry land appear." And so it was. God called the dry land, earth, and the mass of waters, sea...

**"And God saw that it was good."**

God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation; seed-bearing plants and trees bearing fruit with their seeds inside. And so it was...

**"And God saw that it was good."**

God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate day from night and mark the fixed times. God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day and the lesser one to govern the night. And God made the stars...

**"And God saw that it was good."**

God said, "Let the waters team with living creatures, and let the birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven. And so it was. God blessed them saying, "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas and let the birds multiply upon the earth"...

**"And God saw that it was good."**

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures; cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds."  
And so it happened...

**"And God saw that it was good."**

God said, "Let us make humankind in our image to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish of the sea, the birds of the heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts, and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth."

And so it was...

**"And God saw that it was very good."**

Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. On the seventh day God had finished all the work of creation, and so, on that seventh day, God rested.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Homily

"And God Rested"

\*Hymn #395

"Seed, Scattered and Sown"

Verse 1 only

***Seed, scattered and sown, wheat, gathered and grown,  
bread, broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of God.  
Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands, one cup that is shared by all;  
the Living Cup, the Living Bread of God.***

***Is not the bread we break a sharing in our Lord?  
Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ outpoured?***

***Seed, scattered and sown, wheat, gathered and grown,  
bread, broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of God.  
Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands, one cup that is shared by all;  
the Living Cup, the Living Bread of God.***

## Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Creator be with you and all creation

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts.

**We open them to our Creator. Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and earth.**

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator.

Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars and stardust to appear,

**for earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth  
and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.**

Your Spirit is the life impulse in all things,  
renewing the barren and healing the wounded,  
**groaning in anticipation of a new creation,  
stirring a new life born of water and the spirit.**

You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth,  
to suffer, die and rise from death,

**to redeem humankind, restore creation,  
and affirm all born of earth and the Spirit.**

Your presence is the living impulse in all things,  
**the Christ deep among us,**

filling Earth – and sea and air – filling every element and place,  
**filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.**

Therefore, with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest,  
high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea

**and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us,  
singing:**

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

Eating and drinking together, we remember his life, full of goodness and joy;

**We remember his death, and refuse its violence;**

We remember his rising, and rejoice in his resilience;

**and we wait with longing for him to come again, to do justice in mercy,  
to welcome in love, and restore all creation to the praise and glory of God.**

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 thank you Creator God because you have invited us to this table.  
Here we are strengthened for the task ahead of us: the loving of the world.  
Here we receive all Christ's gifts; strengthen our faith.  
**Help us love one another and all of your creation.**  
**Make our lives a form of praise for your love shown to us through Jesus Christ.**  
**Amen.**

Offerings of the People

\*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

**+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<sup>2</sup>

"Song of the Sanctuary"

Melody: "Guide O Thou Great Jehovah"

***You who watch the highest heavens wond'ring where God's mansions are;  
you who hope to spot an angel spinning like a falling star;  
Earth is calling, Earth is calling, come back home and rest in me,  
come back home and rest in me.***

***You who hope for joys in heaven do you know the joys of Earth?  
Ancient forests filled with singing, seas that shout when whales give birth?  
Earth is calling, Earth is calling, come back home and sing with me.  
Come back home and sing with me.***

***You who long for bread like manna falling from the hand of God?  
Know that Earth provides your water, precious breath and daily food.  
Earth is calling, Earth is calling, come back home and dine with me.  
Come back home and dine with me.***

\*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

“Autumn”

A. Vivaldi

*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.

<sup>1</sup>Hymn lyrics Norman Habel from *Songs for Celebrating With Creation* ©2004, administered by Willow Publishing Pty. Ltd.

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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Deacon of the Day: Lisa Sherman   Ushers: Patti Goyette, Jeff & Judy Mereschuk  
Greeters: Sally Bullard, Alyssa Davis, Al & Darlene Fisk

Flowers are provided today by Alex Scopeletis “In memory of my mother,  
Carla Scopeletis, on the 10-year anniversary of her death.”

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### **HOMEcoming SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14**

Everyone is invited to our Annual Potluck BBQ immediately following worship next Sunday –  
we'll supply beverages, burgers & hot dogs. You bring a friend and a side dish to share.

We will celebrate the kickoff of a new school year of Faith Formation classes, events and  
activities for all ages! Grades K-3 & 4-8 will attend Sunday School classes; Grades 9-12 will attend  
worship. **Potluck signup sheet can be found outside the church office.**

## **PRAYER LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**

Nancy Aceti  
Ed Clough (Joan Buffington's son)  
Bob Colpitts (brother of Nancy Aceti)  
Edward & Maryann Czajkowski (Mary's brother)  
Michael D. (friend of the Jasies)  
Brent Damiano  
Royal Goheen  
Dennis Goyette  
Dave Henry and Eric Henry (Kathy Henry's brothers-in-law)  
Chuck & Marge Huston (Lynn Wiegel's brother and sister-in-law)  
Larry Johnson (friend of the Jasie Family)  
Sahag Johnson  
Bev Larson (no calls – cards welcomed)  
Barbara Lussier  
Peggy & Ken McAloon  
Nelson Murphy  
Jean Otto  
Paul Peters (Lois Andre's brother-in-law)  
Peni Plucker  
Alexander Rosen-Schuh  
Kristin Walters (friend of the Marchildons)

- Prayers for our country and its leadership: that divisions and hostility will end and stability and well-being return.
- Prayers for those living in the midst of war and famine.

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### **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**