

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

LAITY SUNDAY

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 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

"My Song in the Night"
Hannah Chung, flute

arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship

Listen! Do you not hear? God is calling.

We listen, but there is nothing. We wait, but it takes too long!

Listen! Do you not see? God is beside you.

We hope that God is near, but we only sense our own anxiety and fear.

Listen! It is God who sits beside us.

It is God who waits for us to open our eyes to her presence.

It is God who invites us to know peace and compassion.

**It is God who calls us into relationship- to come to this place to worship
and to draw strength from one another and God.**

Praise be to God,

our strength and our hope!

*Hymn #284

"Gather Us In"

Verses 1 & 2

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.

See in this space our fears and our dreamings,

brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame.

Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young -- our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face.

We have been sung throughout all of history,

called be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in -- the rich and the haughty; gather us in -- the proud and the strong;

give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

*Invocation

God of grace and glory, we thank you that you judge us not by the perfection of our actions, but by our readiness to live boldly by faith. Help us, as individuals and as a congregation, to trust you and follow where you lead with a willing spirit and open mind. This we pray in the way of Jesus. Amen.

Word for the Young

Anthem

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

arr. Dale Wood

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer:

Prayer of Confession

Patient God, repeatedly – day by day, you call us to love as we have been loved. But increasingly your voice is drowned out by the noise around us – social media, cell phones, blog posts, streaming platforms and all the typical chatter of the day. The noise of our political arena, our marketing gurus, and even our own voices distract us from you. Forgive us. Quiet us, O God and teach us to listen for your voice, that we may know ourselves in you and know what you would have us do and be as your disciples in the world today.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

Come to the quiet. There God speaks to us, discerning our thoughts with love and compassion. Know that we are wonderfully made and God loves and forgives each one of us.

Thanks be to you, O God!

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 3: 1-19

Stories of Faith

Maggie Bossi, Molly Young, Joe Hesse

*Hymn

"God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

***God, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek your erring children lost and lone.***

***O lead me, God, that I may lead some wanderers along life's way;
O feed me so that I may feed your hungry ones without delay.***

***O fill me with your fullness, God, our overflowing love to know;
in glowing word and kindling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.***

***O use me, God, use even me just as you will, and when, and where,
until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.***

Offerings of the People/Offertory

*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#545

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!"

Verses 1 & 2

***He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.***

***Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
by waters still, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis thy hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.***

*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

"Sortie"

George Blake

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. "God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak" from The New Century Hymnal; Tune CANONBURY, arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872.

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: Kim Crowell

Ushers: Brian & Cathy McGuinness, Jane Wilson

Greeters: Bob Bullard, Jeff Gordon

Flowers are provided today by Judy & Peter Berrien

"In memory of our parents, Helen & Gordon Berrien and Edith & Edward Derby"

"Learning How to Have Hard Conversations"

Join us after worship today in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Tristan Williams, a D-Y High School teacher of American History, will facilitate this interactive program about handling difficult subjects.

Looking for Bakers!

Would you like to help out with Fellowship Coffee Hour, but aren't part of a scheduled committee? Some of our smaller committees could use a hand providing baked goods for this important time of fellowship. If you'd like to contribute to this meaningful social mission, please sign up on the sheet, posted outside the office, or let Jane know. A committee member will reach out to see if you're available on a particular date.

Thank you for helping us make Coffee Hour warm and welcoming for all!



Come for dinner!

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 24th and join DUC friends at our fall "Dine In" event.

Today is the last day to sign up.

Ushers and greeters are needed for all November Sundays!

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.

Trunk-or-Treat: Join us for a fun family day of safe trick-or-treating at DUC Saturday, October 25 from 11 am-1 pm.

What is "trunk or treat"? You decorate your car trunk and pass out candy at a fun Halloween event for the community! Please sign up on the bulletin board by the office. Come on Saturday October 25 at 10 am to set up in front of the church. Our event will be from 11 am until 1 pm.

Unable to join us for the Trunk-or-Treat but still would like to lend a hand?
We'll be collecting Halloween candy to pass out for the event.

Deadline to sign up for trunk or treat or candy donations is today!

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
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Finance Secretaries: Elise Gordon and Doreen Mayer
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Crib Room Attendant: Laura Sears