

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 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

"St. Bernard"

Paul Bryan

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship

based on Amos 5: 14-15, 24

Seek good, and not evil, that you may live;
and so the God of hosts will be with us, just as we have said.
Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the God of hosts will be gracious to us.
But we must let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Let us offer heartfelt praise to God,
who alone is worthy of our adoration. Amen.

*Hymn #24

"The God of Abraham Praise"

***The God of Abraham praise. All praised be the Name, who was, and is, and is to be,
is still the same; the one eternal God, ere all that now appears,
the First, the Last, beyond all thought through timeless years!***

***God's spirit flowing free, high surging where it will – in prophet's word it spoke of old
– is speaking still. Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, or land.***

***God has eternal life implanted in the soul. God's love shall be our strength and stay,
while ages roll. Praise to the living God! All praised be the Name,
who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same!***

*Invocation

**Eternal God, whose will for humankind is that we live within your rule of love,
call us out of our preoccupation with riches. Help us to sense our common plight
with all who suffer. Open our eyes to see and identify with rich and poor alike
as your children, that through mutual care and compassion we might grow toward
your realm of love. May we hear and heed your life-changing warnings
and promises. Amen.**

Word for the Young

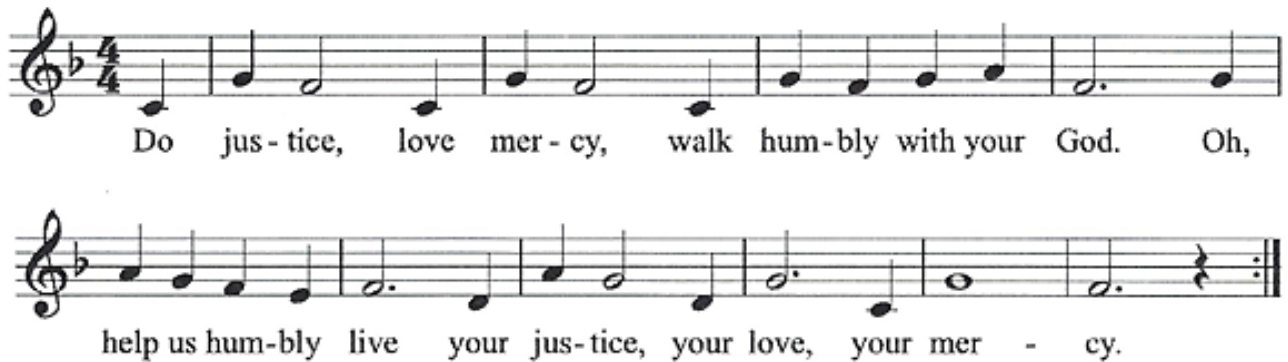
Anthem

"Like A Mighty River"

Michael Barrett

A Litany of Justice¹

based on Psalm 146, Micah 6:8



Response

Glory to the Holy One in whom all creation flourishes: who we call Source,
Mother, Father, Friend, Mystery.

Glory to the Spirit, who delights in steadfast love and justice.

Glory to Jesus the Christ, who followed the path of faithfulness all the way to the cross.

We praise you, blessed Trinity, Maker of earth and sky and sea,

for you execute judgment,

feed the hungry,

lift those who are bowed down,

watch over strangers,

uphold widows and orphans,

overcome evil with good,

and reconcile all things in love.

Response

Eternal, Living God, you pour forth your love into all creation and invite us to share your life.

**Fill us with your gracious Spirit, that we may reflect your radiance not through wisdom,
wealth, or power, but through doing justice, loving kindness,
and living humbly with you.**

Glory to you, holy Source and Goal of life,

incarnate Word and Wisdom,

breath and flame of Spirit,

one God now and forever.

Response

Old Testament Reading

Amos 1:1-2, 5:14-15, 21-24

Homily

*Hymn #71

"Your Love, O God"

Verses 1, 3 & 4

*Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.
You leave us free to seek you or reject you,
you give us room to answer "yes" or "no."*

*But there are walls that keep us all divided;
we fence each other in with hate and war.
Fear is the bricks and mortar of our prison,
our pride of self, the prison coat we wear.*

*O judge us, God, and in your judgment free us,
and set our feet in freedom's open space;
take us as far as your compassion wanders
among the children of the human race.*

Offerings of the People

Offertory

"Variation 7 (from Goldberg Variations)"

J.S. Bach

*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 #665

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

Verses 1, 4 & 6

*Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.*

*The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the strong compassion in your face.*

*Till all shall learn compassion's might,
following where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your realm of light
shall come the city of our God.*

*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

"Ode to Joy"

arr. Michael Higgins

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.

¹ "Do Justice" used by permission: Steve Garnaas-Holmes www.unfoldinglight.net; "A Litany of Justice" from *Touch Holiness*, Duck and Tirabassi, Editors.

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: Sue Martin

Ushers: Steve Higgins, John & Sue Schofield

Greeters: Bob Bullard, Dottie Damon, Jeff Gordon

Flowers are provided today in celebration of Betty Boothe's 95th birthday
from her friends in the Bell Choir

Thanks to everyone who has taken Christmas gift bags for the gift program at the Center for
Active Living. Bags are due back this week -- please bring them to the office
as soon as possible.

Thanks for the quick and generous response to the call for gifts for the Salvation Army
Christmas programs for families. All the gift requests have been claimed.
Please bring in wrapped gifts with the tag attached **by November 30.**

Advent Bible Study

Mondays November 24 -- December 22 at 12:30 pm

Our theme for the season of Advent this year is: What Do You Fear?

Each week, the sanctuary will slowly fill with lanterns of light as we anticipate and celebrate the arrival of the Christ Child. Beginning Monday, November 24, we will offer a Bible study for 4 weeks discussing the passages of scripture that will be preached the following Sunday. We will take an hour to talk about, reflect on, and imagine what God is proclaiming in the text before us. You don't have to bring anything unless you want to bring your own Bible.

- Open to all interested in conversation and reflection -



Sunday, November 23 is the service where we celebrate Thanksgiving and the culmination of our Stewardship program. We hope those pledges that have not already been submitted will be added during the offering that day.

Many in our congregation have been generous with donations of food and gift cards in response to the increased need in our community. In the spirit of generosity, and as a symbolic offering to God a portion of what we have received, we invite you to bring a food item to worship next Sunday.

Please bring food items to the communion table prior to worship; someone will assist you with placement. The collection of food will be added to our donations to Hands of Hope Outreach Center.

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

713 Main Street (Route 6A at Old Bass River Rd.)

Dennis, Massachusetts 02638 508-385-3543 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: Open