

DENNIS UNION CHURCH, UCC
an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ



First Sunday of Advent - November 30, 2025 **10:00 a.m.**

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

"Wachet Auf"

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Silence

*Call to Worship

On Sundays and Mondays, on good days and bad days,
early in the morning and very late at night,
here in this room, and out in the world,
God, we long for you to break in.

Meet us in this space.

Surprise us with your presence.

Fill this room with your good news.

With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

* Hymn #125

"Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

***Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;
dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.***

***Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts along;
by your all-sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.***

Advent Candle Liturgy

In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

We see hope when we look to the next generation. We feel hopeful when we gather together. We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.

Yes, there is hope. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us.

Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Response	"Show Up" Katie Clancy, soloist	Lyrics and music by Britt Kusserow
Old Testament Lesson	Lamentations 3:55-57	
Gospel Lesson	Luke 1:5-13	
Anthem	"A Carol for Advent"	D. Besig
Homily		

*Hymn "In the Time of Herod" Words by Anna Strickland

***In the time of Herod, fear had taken hold
hope was buried deep and hidden, rare as gold.
Ordinary people dared not speak aloud
dream of the Messiah breaking through the clouds.***

***Thick as fog the fear grew, slowly creeping in
day by day the people bent and drew within.
With clouds so heavy, who could see the stars?
Hopelessness had trapped them, strong as prison bars.***

***Piercing through the stratus comes the angel's song
"Do not fear!" rings hollow when we've feared so long.
Still in the recesses of our weary souls
something is awakened -- could it be our hope?***

***In the time of Herod, fear has taken hold
still we share a longing for a glimpse of hope.
Ordinary people shout the truth we trust:
God will stop at nothing to be here with us.***

Call for the Offering

Offertory	"Gottes Sohn ist kommen"	J.H. Buttstedt
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***Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay,
transform them into blessings on those we serve today.
Rekindle deep within us all a passion to fulfill
the ministry disciples have, empower'd to do your will.***

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 Creator, Father)

*Hymn #122

“Comfort, Comfort You My People”

***Comfort, comfort you my people, tell of peace, thus says our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak to you Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.***

***For the herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,
bidding us to make repentance since the reign of God is here.
O that warming cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.***

***Make you straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of our God now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.***

*Sending Forth

In this season of Advent, we remember our hope comes from You.

We trust, O God you are at work even in the darkness.

We await Jesus coming anew.

Fill us with your Spirit to do the work of

justice,

compassion,

forgiveness

and lead us in the ways of peace.

Let us share this shalom with one another:

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you. (Please turn and acknowledge those around you).

*Benediction

Recessional

“Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland”

J.S. Bach

The congregation may remain seated during the postlude or depart.

***Please stand in body or spirit.** Music reproduced with permission: *One License #8-730116*. Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed (adapted) | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org “Show Up” Advent Theme Song © Britt Kusserow 2025 | Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC | www.brittkusserow.com. Sending Forth adapted from W. Bruggemann.

We are glad you have joined us today for worship, for we are the church whether we are gathered or scattered. 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: Suzanne Paulson

Ushers: Nancy & Ralph Aceti, Lisa Sherman

Greeters: Bob & Sally Bullard, Jeff Gordon

Advent Candle Lighting: Tristan Williams, Molly and Norah Young

Flowers are given today by John & Suzanne Paulson “In memory of their parents Cynthia & Wilfred Hugli and Lynn & Emma Louise Paulson”

DY-ECH CARDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

If you would like to purchase gift cards for your holiday list, consider purchasing cards from DY-ECH. A list of available cards is on the hallway bulletin board – some are readily available during Fellowship Hour; some will need to be ordered.

A percentage of the value of each card is donated to HAC’s program to prevent homelessness on the Cape – making your gift \$\$ an additional benefit to the community.

Service of Hope and Light Thursday, December 4 at 7 pm

This has been another challenging year for many. For those who are struggling with this time of year, holiday exuberance can amplify feelings of grief, loneliness or despair. In the midst of the struggle, we can find hope!

DUC invites everyone to come share time and space where God’s presence and healing can meet the pain of our lives. The service will include candlelight, quiet music, scripture and prayer. In this place of sanctuary, people can find a safe place to acknowledge their struggles, be reassured that they are not alone, and experience the message of God’s unconditional love and hope which is at the heart of this season.

We hope you’ll join us for this sacred time as we turn our faces and attention from hurt to hope. All are welcome.

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Presented by Dennis Union Church & Seaglass Theater Company

Gian Carlo Menotti's beloved one-act opera will be presented by Maggie Bossi and friends in conjunction with Seaglass Theater Company. Performances at Dennis Union are on Saturday, December 13 at 1 pm and 4 pm with an additional performance December 14 at 3 pm. at the Unitarian Memorial Church in Fairhaven. The performances are free and all are welcome.

If you would like to help prepare sets for the show, contact Maggie Bossi.

HELP AT THE HOLIDAY STROLL

Sunday December 14 following worship

We would **love** for you to volunteer to welcome our neighbors and help to make some Christmas keepsakes. You can email Evy at dennisunion.evy@gmail.com or sign up in the entry way to lend a hand. Here is what we need:

Swag Decorating:

- Volunteers to help & assist guests to decorate swags together using a hot glue gun
- Collect Christmas greens beforehand and help assemble the swags.

Cookie Decorating:

- Assist in helping guests decorate sugar cookies.
- Donate blank sugar cookies and/or royal icing.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to donate a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out a form at Fellowship Hour today or next Sunday or contact the church office.

Poinsettias are \$21 each and will adorn the chancel beginning December 14. Plants may be picked up following the evening service on Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

Mark your calendars! The annual and much-loved DUC Christmas Cookie Sale will take place on SATURDAY, December 13 beginning at 10:00 am and continuing until we are sold out (usually by noon).

Boxes of two dozen assorted cookies will be on sale for \$15 for the first box and \$10 for each subsequent box. For this to be the big success it has traditionally been, we need buyers and BAKERS!!! Get out your favorite cookie recipes or try out a new one! Cookies should be brought to the church on FRIDAY, December 12 between 9:00 and 11:00 AM. Please bring them in a disposable container if possible. And please NO NUTS! Gluten-free cookies are most welcome. Peanut butter cookies are also welcome; we will just pack some peanut butter free boxes.

All proceeds of the sale will benefit our mission in Colombia.

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
Crib Room Attendant: Open