

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent - Music Sunday

December 21, 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	"Still, Still, Still"	Arr. Kondonassis
Choral Introit	"Wexford Carol"	Arr. Elaine Hagenberg

Announcements and Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Here in worship—
we pray together,
we stand together,
we sing together,
we listen together.

Here in worship— we are not alone.

So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry, remember this moment.

We are not alone.

Let us worship our God, Emmanuel.

*** Hymn #136** "Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming" Verses 1, 2 & 4

***Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth.
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth.
Dance and move to show God's glory; kneel and pause to hear God's word.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.***

***Christians all, your Lord is coming, calling you to serve in deed.
See the ones who hurt and suffer, hear their cry and act with speed.
Set all selfish ways behind you. Purge your hearts of sinful greed.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ in you will meet their need.***

***Christians all, your Lord is coming, hope for peace is now at hand.
Let there be no hesitation, walk in faith where life demands.
Bear the word that God has given; share the birth that stirs your soul.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ will come and make you whole.***

*Invocation

God of manger and star, open us to the depths and heights of your incredible love which comes through humble stories and glorious songs. Speak to us in word and music and lift us to the realms of glory. Amen.

Children Leave for Sunday School

Advent Candle Liturgy

In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

**We see love all around us. We see love when people hold open the door.
We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call after a long day. We see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy.
We see love all around us.**

Yes, there is love. Even in a fearful world, love is all around us.
Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news.
May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, love is here.
Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it.

The fourth candle is lit.

Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

Musical Reflection “Interlude from ‘Ceremony of Carols’ ” Benjamin Britten

Gospel Lesson Matthew 1:18-25

Reflections on Joseph

Anthem “Angels’ Carol” John Rutter

Call for the Offering

Offertory “King Jesus Hath a Garden” John Rutter

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 #140

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Verses 1, 2 & 4

***Hail to the Lord’s anointed, great David’s greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captives free,
to take away transgressions, and rule in equity.***

***He comes with justice speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.***

***To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever; that name to us is Love.***

*Passing of the Peace

Before we leave this time of worship let us greet one another with the peace of Jesus the Christ, who is the light that breaks into our darkness and is our hope and salvation.

Let us share in 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).

Anthem

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Arr. Dan Forrest

Benediction

In a fearful world, may you look for God’s spirit. May you reach for each other’s hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with— go in peace and be not afraid. Amen.

Postlude

“The Friendly Beasts”

Arr. Burton

Please remain seated today during the postlude.

***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.

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.

The Chancel Choir and our guest musicians are so happy to present these special anthems as we draw ever closer to Christmas.

Guest Musicians: Maria Rindinello-Spraker, harp
Hannah Chung, flute Elizabeth Doriss, oboe

Deacon of the Day: Sue Martin
Ushers: Mary Czajkowski, Dennis & Patti Goyette
Greeters: Jeff Gordon, Ann & Lloyd Swaim
Advent Candle Lighting: The Furey Family

Calling all families, children and students!
Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Worship will be the Annual Nativity Service.

All ages are welcome to participate in costume as the story is narrated during our time of worship on Christmas Eve.

Please contact Evy or Doreen if you would like to sign up for a role as a specific nativity character.
We still need sheep, cows, angels, shepherds and Joseph too!

Plan to arrive on Christmas Eve at 3:30 in order to leave time to put on your costume prior to the beginning of worship.

Questions may be directed to Doreen at faithformation@duchurch.org.

New Member Inquiry Sessions Starting Soon

If you are interested in learning more about membership at Dennis Union Church, information sessions are planned after worship on January 11 and 18 to explore what it means to be a member at DUC as well as the United Church of Christ.

Everyone interested is welcome to ask questions and find out more about faith and fellowship in our church community before making a decision to continue to membership.

**New members will be received into the congregation
on Sunday, January 25, 2026.**

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