

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 11, 2026

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

"Passacaglia"

Valerie Stephenson

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer for Centering and Silence:

**Lord, behold our family here assembled.
We thank you for this place in which we dwell,
for the love that unites us,
for the peace accorded us on this day,
for the hope with which we expect the morrow;
for the health, the work, the food and the bright skies
that make our lives delightful;
for our friends in all parts of the earth.
Amen.**

Robert Louis Stevenson¹

*Call to Worship

Psalms 36: 7,9

How precious is the steadfast love of God.
All people may take refuge in the shadow of God's embrace.
Christ is the fountain of life.
In Christ we behold the Light of God.

*Hymn #95

"Jesus Shall Reign"

Verses 1, 3 & 5

***Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
his love shall spread from shore to shore
till moons shall wax and wane no more.***

***People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.***

***Let every creature rise with song; honor and praise to Christ belong;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen!***

*Invocation

**Holy God, through signs of grace you reveal your glory to all the world.
Open our eyes to the hidden and surprising wonders you perform,
that we may believe with our minds and trust in our hearts that you alone
are Lord of all creation. Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray.
Amen.**

Anthem

“Deck Thyself, My Soul With Gladness”

Michael Mazzatenta

Call to Confession

In the light of Christ, we see the darkness of the world and of our hearts.
Trusting God’s saving love, let offer our prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession

**Creator God, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world.
We have depended on our possessions and have not placed our trust in your
grace. We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be
faithful stewards of the earth’s resources. We have sought security in the might
of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us, we pray.
Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

Silence

Assurance of Grace

Hear the good new: Christ unmask the idols of our world and frees us
from enslavement to all that would oppress us. In the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven.

Scripture

John 2: 1-11

Homily

“A Change of Plans”

*Hymn #575

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

***Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.***

***Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we’re shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.***

***In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!***

Offerings of the People

Offertory

"Intrada"

Alan Viner

*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 #450

"God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian"

Verses 1 & 2

***God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-spiced flame and hovering dove,
breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
give to those who lead your people, fresh anointing of your grace;
send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.***

***Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, word made flesh, love crucified,
teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
in your tending may all pastors learn and live a shepherd's care;
grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.***

*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

“Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort”

J.S. Bach

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. All liturgy today from *Feasting on the Word, Year C 1* - K Bracken Long. ¹Prayer from *The Little Book of Prayers*, edited by David Schiller.

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: Gary Forrister

Ushers: Dennis & Patti Goyette, Jane Wilson

Greeters: Sally Bullard, Jeff Gordon, Marla Ker

Flowers provided today by Edie & Owen Graf

“In memory of our mothers Jean Barnett and Sophie Graf”

New Member Inquiry Session Today

If you are interested in learning more about membership at Dennis Union Church, information sessions are planned after worship today and on January 18.

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

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

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 Nickerson
Finance Secretaries: Elise Gordon and Doreen Mayer
Office Administrator: Jane Wilson
Sexton: Dave Crocker
Crib Room Attendant: Open