

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 18, 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

“Aria”

Paul Manz

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer for Centering¹

Silence

*Call to Worship

This is God's world, a world of beauty, wonder and incredible diversity.

Yet it is broken:

fractured by our racism, poverty, militarism and greed.

But God is still God, offering us forgiveness, and giving us courage to heal the world.

Speak to us, God. Give us grace to see ourselves clearly,
to be changed by your grace and renewed by your Spirit,
and to follow Jesus.

We open our hearts to you.

We give you our thanks and gather to worship in faith, hope and love.

*Hymn #631

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Verses 1 & 3

*Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise
high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.*

*God of our weary years. God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might
led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we meet thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God,
true to our native land.*

*Invocation

God of justice, we worship you in a world of injustice. The evils around us challenge our faith that you are in charge. But your grace is greater than our sin. Your justice is more powerful than our wrongdoing. Speak to us; renew our faith; rekindle our courage. In the spirit of those who have gone before us, in the company of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr. and John Lewis, lead us on. Make us your faithful workers, this we pray, Amen.

Word for the Young

Anthem "Standin' the Need of Prayer" arr. Joel Raney

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Prayer of Confession

God of justice, we accept the Spirit you give us to follow Jesus, to proclaim your Realm of Grace.

We give thanks that you cherish this Creation and care for it, and we shall do the same.

We lament our corporate sin of poverty, discrimination and violence, and give thanks that Jesus came among us in forgiveness, healing and reconciliation; **and we shall do the same.**

We give thanks for those prophets among us who have spoken and acted in faith and in peace for the sake of justice;
and we shall do the same.

We give thanks for those who have honored the gift of our diversity,
who have labored and sacrificed to break down barriers of hate,
who in love have made strangers into siblings and enemies into friends;
and we shall do the same.

God grant us faith and courage to pray and to speak, to work and to live
for the sake of the coming of your Realm of Grace, in the name and Spirit of Jesus.
Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

Scripture

John 2: 13-22

Homily

*Hymn #615

“I Shall Not Be Moved”

Verses 1 & 3

***I shall not be, I shall not be moved. I shall not be, I shall not be moved;
like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.***

***When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved, when my cross is heavy,
I shall not be moved; like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.***

***If my friends forsake me, I shall not be moved, if my friends forsake me,
I shall not be moved; like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.***

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

Hymn #307

***Our Father, which 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. And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.***

*Hymn #683

“O for a World”

Verses 1, 2 & 3

***O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.***

***O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.***

***We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.***

*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

"Intrada"

John Marsh

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*Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems and Meditations for Staying Human* by Cole Arthur Riley.

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: Peter Berrien

Ushers: Mary Czajkowski, Steve Higgins, Cindy Johnson

Greeters: Bob Bullard, Suzanne Paulson

Flowers provided today by Mary Ann Eldred
"In loving memory of my husband Bob Eldred"

New Member Inquiry Session Today

If you are interested in learning more about membership at Dennis Union Church, an information session is planned after worship today.

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.

SOUP AND STORYTELLING

Friday, January 23 at 5 pm in the Lower Social Hall

"What's Your Story?"

Join us for a fun night of storytelling - listen to a story, or tell a story and enjoy a tasty meal of soups, chili, and mac & cheese.

Sign up in the hallway or at Fellowship Hour to bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

Wondering? Why does DY-ECH sell caring cards and why should I buy them?

When you buy a card from DY-ECH, you buy it at face value and you receive the same value for purchases. Here's an example: You buy a \$100 card to Stop&Shop from DY-ECH and pay \$100 for the card. You go to the store and buy \$100 worth of groceries. Sounds simple-right? It is!

We buy the cards from S&S in bulk and at a 5% discount, so for every \$100 you buy, DY-ECH makes \$5.

What do we do with the proceeds?

We fund a program at Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) titled "Project Prevention".

This program helps Cape Cod families that are in danger of losing their housing due to a temporary financial problem.

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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