

# DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**February 8, 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

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

arr. Robert Lau

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer and Silent Reflection

\*Call to Worship

We have gathered here this morning to worship God.

**We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community, and insight.**

We have come to open ourselves to the power of God's healing presence in our midst.

**We have come to offer up the suffering and confusion we experience in the world and ask for God's guidance and grace.**

Let us worship God.

\*Hymn #16 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.*

*Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.*

*Here I raise to thee an altar; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.*

*Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!*

*Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.*

*Prone to wander, how I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.*

\*Invocation

**God of grace and glory, we thank you that you judge us not by the perfection of our actions, but by the readiness to live boldly by faith. Help us, as individuals and as a congregation to trust you and follow where you lead, that in Christ your name may be glorified in all the earth. Amen.**

Word for the Young

Anthem

“Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child”

arr. Mitchell Eithun

Bell Choir and Betsy Doriss, oboe

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Prayer of Confession

**O God of Grace, we confess that sometimes we are unsure of our faith.  
We are weighed down with doubt and hold onto anger and guilt and do not have  
the courage to trust in you. Fill our hearts with assurance of your love,  
and renew our courage through your Holy Spirit, that we may serve you  
with joyful abandon.**

Silence

Assurance of Grace

The good news is that Christ knows what is in our hearts  
and still calls us to new life and enables us to begin again.

**Thanks be to God!**

Scripture Reading

John 4:46-54, 5:1-18

Homily

\*Hymn #503

“O Christ the Healer”

Verses 1, 2 & 3

***O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?***

***From every ailment flesh endures our bodies calmor to be freed;  
yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.***

***How strong, O Christ, are our desires, how weak our knowledge of ourselves!  
Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.***

Offerings of the People

Offertory

“My Lord, What a Morning”

arr. Marianne Kim

\*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 Sung 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 #544

“No, Not One!”

***There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus -- no, not one! no, not one!  
None else could heal all our soul's diseases -- no, not one! no, not one!  
Jesus knows all about our struggles, he will guide till the day is done;  
there's not a friend like the lowly Jesus -- no, not one! no, not one!***

***No friend like him is so high and holy -- no, not one! no, not one!  
And yet no friend is so meek and lowly - no, not one! no, not one!  
Jesus knows all about our struggles, he will guide till the day is done;  
there's not a friend like the lowly Jesus -- no, not one! no, not one!***

***There's not an hour that he is not near us -- no, not one! no, not one!  
No night so dark but his love can cheer us -- no, not one! non, not one!  
Jesus knows all about our struggles, he will guide till the day is done;  
there's not a friend like the lowly Jesus -- no, not one! no, not one!***

***Was e'er a gift like the Savior given? No, not one! no, not one!  
Will he refuse us a home in heaven? no, not one! no, not one!  
Jesus knows all about our struggles, he will guide till the day is done;  
there's not a friend like the lowly Jesus -- no, not one! no, not one!***

\*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

*The congregation may be seated for the music or depart.*

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**\*Please rise in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116.

We welcome Elizabeth (Betsy) Doriss, oboe, as our guest musician.  
Betsy was the principal oboe of the Cape Symphony for 45 years!

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.

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Deacon of the Day: Sue Martin  
Ushers: Annmarie Gavin, Steve Higgins, Jane Wilson  
Greeters: Sally & Bob Bullard, Marla Ker

Flowers today are given by Betty Boothe  
"In loving memory of family members: Bill, Ken, Mom, Dad, Grace and Willis"

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### **Call to the Annual Meeting** **Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**

According to the By-Laws of Dennis Union Church, the 160<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary for the following purposes:

1. To receive annual reports of officers, boards and committees;
2. To vote on the proposed amendments to the current Bylaws;
3. To adopt a budget for 2026;
4. To elect officers, board and committee members;
5. To transact any and all other business that would normally be considered.

Deborah Clemence, Clerk

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### **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](http://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 Nickerson

Finance Secretaries: Elise Gordon and Doreen Mayer

Office Administrator: Jane Wilson

Sexton: Dave Crocker