

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Third Sunday in Lent

March 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

“Trio”

Julius Reubke (1834-1858)

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer and Silent Reflection

*Call to Worship

adapted from Psalm 51 by Nan Merrill

You have placed your truth in our inner being;
therefore, teach us the wisdom of the heart.

Forgive all that binds us in fear, that we may radiate love;

Cleanse us that your light might shine in us.

Fill us with gladness; help us to transform our weakness into strength.

Look not on our past mistakes, but on the aspirations of our hearts.

Create in us clean hearts, O Gracious One, and put a new and right spirit within us.

Enfold us in the arms of Love, and fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Restore in us the joy of your saving grace, and encourage us with a new spirit.

O gracious One, open our lips and our mouths shall sing forth your praise!

*Hymn #461

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

Verses 1, 2 & 4

*Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.*

*Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.*

*Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.*

*Invocation

Holy God, breathe your Spirit of life into us. We are creatures of the earth, and we are your children, created in your image. We are frightened sometimes in this world full of risk and confusion. Sometimes things happen too fast, and we find it hard to make good decisions. We need your help.

God as you created life at the beginning of time, create and shape us anew. We pray to be clay once more, shaped by your hand, touching earth, contemplating heaven, loving, working, and playing on this good earth. We long to be a part of the whole circle of love you began in Jesus, reaching to embrace the whole world - a circle where sick people are healed, dying souls are comforted, the oppressed are set free with dignity, and all live in peace.

Through your Spirit, let it be! Amen.

Word for the Young

Anthem “Lift Thine Eyes” F. Mendelssohn

Gospel Reading John 13:1-17

Homily

*Hymn # 609 “Take My Life” Verses 1, 2 & 6

***Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.***

***Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.***

***Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.***

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 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

"Guide My Feet"

Traditional Spiritual

1 Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet
2 Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand
3 I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child
4 Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

Yes, my God.

while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

*Sending Forth / Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Benediction

Recessional

“Mache dich, mein Geist, bereit”
(Prepare thyself, my soul, watch and pray)

J.C. Kittel (1732-1809)

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.
“Guide My Feet” arr. Joyce Finch Johnson; from *The New Century Hymnal* ©1995.

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: Allan Fisk
Ushers: Jane Wilson, Ann & Lloyd Swaim
Greeters: Dottie Damon, John & Sue Schofield, Emily Woudenberg

We welcome The Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White as our covering pastor
while Rev. McHugh is enjoying a weekend with her family.
The Rev. Greenwood White is ordained in the PC(USA) and lives in Orleans.

GOT SNEAKERS?

The box for used athletic sneakers is located in the main hallway.
Help the Missions Committee repurpose your unwanted sneakers for either
recycling or reuse in areas where shoes are greatly needed.

All sizes, all conditions are most welcome!

SOCIAL CONCERNS UPDATE

**During March the Social Concerns Committee will be seeking donations of
feminine hygiene products to donate to the school nurses at
Dennis-Yarmouth Middle and High Schools.**

The school nurse has informed us that some girls must skip school because they don’t have
access to these products. We have a brown box in the hallway next to the food pantry bin
if you would like to donate.



“Praying from the Heart” Lenten Study
Study materials provided as needed
Tuesdays at 11 am - March 10, 17 and 24

Lenten Simple Suppers
Soup, Salad and Bread Provided
Thursdays at 5:30 pm March 12 and 26

Contact the church office to sign up or for more information.

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

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