

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ



Pentecost Sunday

May 24, 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

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

A.L. Page

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer and Silent Reflection

*Call to Worship¹

In the beginning the Spirit brooded over the waters.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

God formed a human from the dust from the earth and breathed into it, and it became a living person.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

John said, “I baptize you with water but one is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Jesus said, “The water that I will give will become in you a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Jesus said of the Spirit, “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Alleluia.

*Hymn #237

“On Pentecost They Gathered”

***On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
a band of Christ’s disciples, to worship, sing and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire aglowing inspired each person there.***

*The people all around them were startled and amazed
to understand their language, as Christ the Lord they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.*

*God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe,
on women, men, and children who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.*

*O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
so people of all nations glad songs of joy shall raise.*

*Invocation ²

**Creator God, send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Dwell among us, even though your presence will startle and unsettle us.
Grant us your peace and renew within us a right spirit as we sing
your praise and rejoice at being your people. Amen.**

Word for the Young

Anthem

"Sanctus"
Antonio Abate, tenor

Gounod

Call to Confession

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer:

Prayer of Confession

The breath of the Spirit does not abandon us, though sometimes
we choose the rush of other winds.

**In the winds of trade and academics, the winds of fortune or poverty,
the winds of controversy and activism, the winds of anxiety and despair,
we forget why we are and whose we are.**

Our confusion keeps us from recognizing the Spirit that blows within each of us
and spreads to all, often because we do not expect that Spirit.

**It seems easier to extinguish a spark than to give ourselves to transforming fire,
as witnesses for a new order.**

The Spirit fuses us in loving community with energies to empower our world.

**But we tire of setting priorities, of being effective, of being intentional
about the work God calls us to do in the world.**

Where is the Spirit's wind and fire then?

Let us lift up our individual joys and sorrows, successes and defeats,
as an act of accountability for our lives and the life of our world
and as an act of awareness of the presence of the Spirit's wind and fire in all of life.

Silence

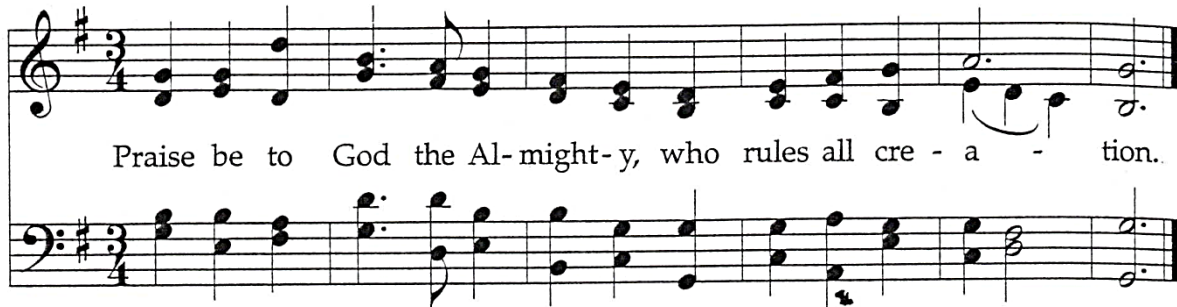
Assurance of Grace

The gift of God's grace descends like a dove upon us.
May we have the grace to accept this gift freely given to us in Christ Jesus.
**For the gift of new life, we give thanks to God, our Creator, Redeemer
and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 104:1-13

Hymn #754



Praise be to God the Al-might-y, who rules all cre - a - tion.

Response

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,

you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind,

you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

Response

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

At your rebuke they flee;

at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys

to the place that you appointed for them.

You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

Response

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills,

giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst.

By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

From your lofty abode you water the mountains;

the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

Response

Homily

*Hymn #250

“O Breath of Life”

***O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us, revive your church with life and power.
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us, and fit your church to meet this hour.***

***O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us, till humbly we confess our need.
Then in your tenderness remake us; revive, restore, for this we plead.***

***O Breath of Love, come, breathe within us, renewng thought and will and heart.
Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us; revive your church in every part.***

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit”

trad. spiritual

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 #236

“Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow”

***Wind who makes all winds that blow – gusts that bend the saplings low,
gales that heave the sea in waves, stirring in the mind’s deep caves –
aim your breath with steady power on your church this day, this hour.
Raise, renew the life we’ve lost, Spirit God of Pentcost.***

***Fire who fuels all fires that burn – suns around which planets turn,
beacons marking reefs and soals, shining truth to guide our souls –
come to us as once you came: burst in tongues of sacred flame!
Light and Power, Might and Strength, fill your church, its breadth and length.***

***Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame, move within our mortal frame.
Make our hearts an altar pyre, kindle them with your own fire.
Breathe and blow upon that blaze till our lives, our deeds and ways,
speak that tongue which every land by your grace shall understand.***

*Sending Forth

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 in the way of Jesus the Christ, who seeks peace in broken relationships, who seeks healing in alienated persons, who seeks justice in oppressive structures.

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).

*Benediction

Recessional

“Immortal, Invisible”

Robert Powell

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 Call to Worship written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes unfoldinglight.net.

² *Bread for the Journey* by R.C. Duck.

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: Linda Gillespie

Ushers: Brian & Cathy McGuinness, Eamail Woudenberg

Greeters: Dennis & Patti Goyette, Ann & Lloyd Swaim

Flowers today are given by Vicki Marchant in honor of Olivia Floristal upon her graduation from Framingham State with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day Holiday - Church Office Closed

Sunday, May 31 - HAC Walk for Hope -- see hallway board to sign up

Friday, June 5 - Memorial Service for Mary Morrison at 11 am

Sunday, June 7 and 14 - New Member Classes

Sunday, June 14 - Youth Sunday

Sunday, June 21 - Receive New Members during worship

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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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