

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

First Sunday after Pentecost

May 31, 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

"Tower Praises"

K.L. Buckwalter

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer and Silent Reflection

*Call to Worship

People of God, as we gather in the welcome of God's love,

As we gather in the joy of our unity in Christ,

As we gather in the power of the Spirit,

let us listen for the voice of God!

Let us worship God,

who has spoken and still speaks to those who attend

to the roar or the whisper of the Holy One. Amen.

*Hymn #334

"Sing My Song Backwards"

Sing my song backwards from end to beginning,

Friday to Monday, from dying to birth.

Nothing is altered, but hope changes everything:

sing "Resurrection!" and "Peace upon earth!"

Whisper a hope through the shame and the agony,

horror and emptiness, darker than night,

visit the wounds, and the failure of Calvary:

sing "Resurrection!" and bathe them in light!

Gather the bones and the sinews of memory -

healing and parables, laughter and strife,

joy with the outcasts and love for the enemy -

breathe "Resurrection!" and dance them to life!

Stretch out a rainbow from cross to nativity.

Deck out the stable with shepherds and kings,

angels and miracles, glory and poetry:

sing my song backwards till all the world sings!

*Invocation

**God, you are the source of our life. Gather us now together, we pray.
Form us into a holy community of your own people. Mold us by the breath
of your holy spirit. Reveal in this corporate body the face of your anointed Christ.
Amen.**

Anthem

“O Day of Peace”
(tune ‘Jerusalem’ by C.H.H. Parry)

arr. C.L. Mizell

Call to Confession

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer:**

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, we admit to attitudes that exclude rather than include. We prefer
to associate with others who think and act as we do. We turn away from those
who are different and even identify some as enemies to avoid or deny them.
Forgive us, God, for seeking to limit your family. Awaken us to the limits
of our understanding and the narrowness of our dealings. Show us the better
ways you intend and make us bold to respond.**

Silence

Assurance of Grace

Let the scales fall from our eyes. God has offered us new sight.
Let us unplug our ears. God is claiming us as beloved disciples.
Warm to the community that surrounds us for God has given us people to love.
**Thanks be to God, for our eyes are opened, our ears are unplugged
and our hearts are burning with God’s good news and love to share. Amen.**

New Testament Lesson

Acts 9: 1-19a

Homily

“When Our Certainty is Shaken”

*Hymn #244

“Loving Spirit”

***Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be –
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.***

***Like a mother you enfold me, hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone.***

***Like a father you protect me, teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder, let me see the world from high.***

***Friend and lover, in your closeness I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort, in your presence I may rest.***

Call for the Offering

Offertory

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

"O God Beyond All Praising"

Congregation sings verses 1 & 3

***O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.***

*The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown --
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ the Man from heaven from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory!*

***Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.***

*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

“Nimrod”

E. Elgar

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.

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: Nancy & Ralph Aceti, Bev Miller
Greeters: Peggy McAloon, Suzanne Paulson

Flowers today are given by Tom & Barbara Wingardner “In memory of our friend SP4 Richard “Bruce” Johnson, who lost his life in Vietnam in June, 1967, at the age of 21.”

Today is the HAC Walk for Hope. If you would like to join a group of walkers from DUC, sign-up for the Orleans walk is at 12:30 and the walk begins at 1 pm. Registration and the start of the walk is at 28 West Road, Orleans. Maps are available on the hallway bulletin board.

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
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