

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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

"Here I Am, Lord"

Dan Schutte

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer and Silent Reflection

*Call to Worship

adapted from Psalm 66: 1-4

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name;

give to him glorious praise.

Say to God, "how awesome are your deeds!

Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you.

Hear us now as we join our hearts to sing with joy and thanksgiving.

*Hymn #23

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

Verses 1, 2 & 4

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven, glad of heart your carols raise;

ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all our days.

Praise to God for grace and favor shown to all who are oppressed.

God shows steadfast love forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!

Frail as summer's flowers we flourish; blows the wind, and it is gone.

But, while mortals rise and perish, God's compassion still lives on.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the high eternal One!

*Invocation

Gracious and merciful God we tend to put our hope in everything but you.

When our hopes are not realized we get bitter and full of despair and then

turn to you for comfort. Help us O Lord, to stop this pattern. Help us to turn

toward you, to put our hope in you and stand tall in faith. Open our hearts

and minds to the ways of your love and the power of your holy presence

in our midst. Amen.

Word for the Young

Anthem

Dulcimer Trio Medley

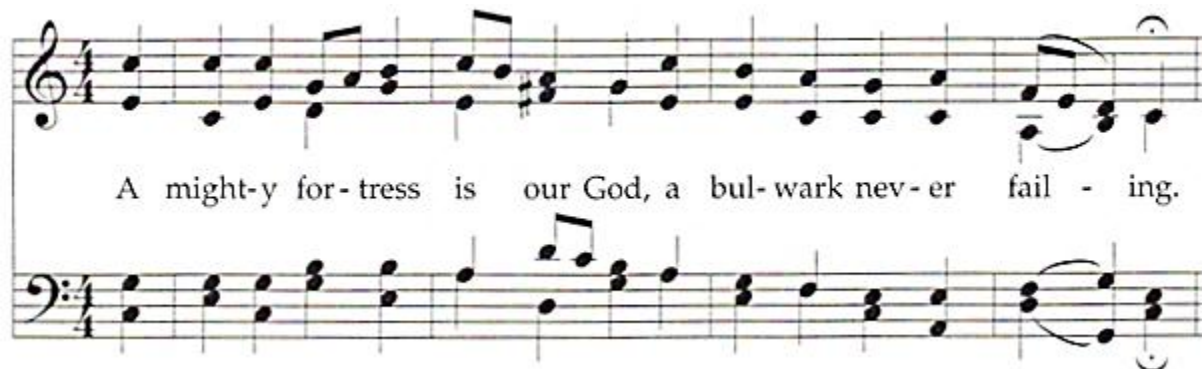
T. Tallis, J. Newton

Tina Nielsen-Felos, Elaine Ostrander, Jeanie Hermansen

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 31: 1-8

Hymnal #738



Response

In you, O God, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame;

in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;

for your names' sake lead me and guide me,

take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Response

Into you hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, faithful God.

You hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in you.

I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction;

you have taken heed of my adversities,

and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;

you have set my feet in a broad place.

Response

Old Testament Lesson Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-14

Homily

“Living with Hope”

*Hymn #86

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,

there is no shadow of turning with thee;

thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;

as thou hast been thou forever wilt be. Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;

all I have needed thy hand hath provided – Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

***Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided – Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

***Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided – Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“The Gift of Love”

American Folk Tune, arr. Hopson

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 #110

“You Servants of God”

Verses 1, 2 & 4

***You servants of God, your Savior proclaim,
and publish abroad that wonderful name:
the name, all victorious, of Jesus extol;
who, sovereign and glorious, now rules over all.***

***God’s truth reaches high, almighty to save,
and yet remain nigh: God’s presence we have.
The great congregation God’s triumphs shall praise,
ascribing salvation to Jesus always.***

***Then let us adore and render God’s right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.***

*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

“Ashokan Farewell”

J. Unger

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.
Portions of the liturgy today are from: *Gathered by Love - Year C* by Lavon Bayler.

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.

We welcome our trio of dulcimer players this morning. Elaine is a well-known artist from Harwich who also plays ukulele and dulcimer; Tina lives in Brewster and has had an adventuresome life, including fighting fires in Montana and running a farm in Maine. She loves playing uke and dulcimer. Jeanie lives in Texas and Brewster. She is a retired music teacher who plays many instruments. She was playing dulcimer alone until she found this group.

Deacon of the Day: Barbara Wingardner
Ushers: Sally Bullard, Gary Forrister, Bev Miller
Greeters: Dottie Damon, John & Sue Schofield

Flowers today are given by the Damon family with appreciation for faith, family, friends and the community of Dennis Union Church.

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