

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer and Silent Reflection

*Call to Worship

Look to the skies — the bow hangs in the clouds, a promise never to be forgotten

a promise that can never be overcome.

Look around at the world — everything pointing to grace,

grace found first in the eyes of God

a promise that can never be overcome.

*Hymn

“Let Us Build a House”

Verses 1, 3 & 5

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,

a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

all are welcome, all are welcome; all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;

a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;

as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are welcome; all are welcome;

all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard

and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: all are welcome; all are welcome;

all are welcome in this place.

*Invocation

Walk with us today, O God, and keep us walking with you —

right alongside, in step, close enough to see the love in your eyes.

However faltering our feet, however imperfect our follow-through,

remember your covenant and keep us with you. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from Iona Worship Book

Blessing of the Backpacks

Anthem

“Praise the Lord”

Handel

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, you know us better than we know ourselves.

We confess that we often get our place in the story mixed up.

We like to think we are always the good guys and we look down on those who should have known better, tried harder, and stayed away from the wrong place at the wrong time.

Forgive us when we think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think.

Forgive us when we assume we’re your favorites, and others get what they deserve.

Forgive us when we see grace for us and judgment for them.

Forgive us and set us back into right relationship, with you and with our neighbors.

We ask in your most holy name. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

Hear this good news: God knows the full truth of us, and chooses love.

God chooses relationship. God chooses covenant. God chooses us.

Look to the rainbow, and know yourself loved, and live at peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 6:5-14, 8:1-5, 9:12-15

Homily

*Hymn #335

“Creating God, Your Fingers Trace”

*Creating God, your fingers trace the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light and what lies hidden praise your might.*

*Sustaining God, your hands uphold earth’s mysteries known or yet untold;
let water’s fragile blend with air, enabling life, proclaim your care.*

*Redeeming God, your arms embrace all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove, make known on earth your healing love.*

*Indwelling God, your gospel claims one family with a billion names;
let every life be touched by grace until we praise you face to face.*

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 #12

"Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud"

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud, Fortress, Fountain, Shelter, Light, Judge, Defender, Mercy, Might, Life whose life all life endowed: May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.

Word and Wisdom, Root and Vine, Shepherd, Savior, Servant, Lamb, Well and Water, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I am: May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.

Storm and Stillness, Breath and Dove, Thunder, Tempest, Whirlwind, Fire, Comfort, Counselor, Presence, Love, Energies that never tire: May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.

*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

The congregation may be seated for the music or depart.

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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: Suzanne Paulson
Ushers: Judy November, Jane Wilson, Emily Woudenberg
Greeters: Bob Bullard, Marla Ker

Flowers today are given by by Earl Springer and Lois Andre in memory of Earl's parents, Anne and Leslie, and his brother Bill, and Lois' parents Gail and Ruth and Lois' stepmother Evelyn.

All are welcome to join in our Homecoming Potluck after worship today. We have burgers and hot dogs from the grill and plenty of sides and desserts to share – plus games and fellowship for everyone.

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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