

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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

"Prayer"

Ernest Bloch

Eleanor Blake, cellist

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer and Silent Reflection

*Call to Worship

God says: go where I will show you.

To those who are comfortable where we are;

To those who are stuck in a rut;

To those who have never heard God's voice before;

To those who think they know God best.

The call and promise comes to us all;

Go and I will bless you, and I will make you a blessing.

Together we seek what God will show us and trust the way forward.

*Hymn #24

"The God of Abraham Praise"

*The God of Abraham praise. All praised be the Name, who was, and is, and is to be,
is still the same; the one eternal God, ere all that now appears,
the First, the Last, beyond all thought through timeless years!*

*God's spirit flowing free, high surging where it will – in prophet's word it spoke of old
– is speaking still. Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, or land.*

*God has eternal life implanted in the soul. God's love shall be our strength and stay,
while ages roll. Praise to the living God! All praised be the Name,
who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same!*

*Invocation

**You call us out, O God, into your holy land —
a place you show us and promise to appear.**

**We pass through, uncertain which parts are holy,
looking for you, wondering how we'll know.**

**Make this a holy place today that we may see you here
and recognize your blessing poured out into us, and through us.**

Amen.

Word for the Young

Call to Confession

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer:

Prayer of Confession

You call, God, and you promise.

**You invite us into partnership,
and we confess that we have mostly tried to do things ourselves.**

We spend our energy making something of ourselves,
securing our future, keeping up, defending our way of life.

**And when you call us to a new thing,
we admit to thinking “we’ve done our bit, can you send someone else?”
Forgive us for hearing your word and still believing we had to take matters into
our own hands.**

Forgive us for acting as if you have only a finite amount of blessing to go around.

Forgive us for putting a time and age limit on your calling.

Speak to us once again, and give us ears to hear and feet ready to go
to be a blessing to your world in need of good news.

We pray in the way of Jesus. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

Hear and believe this good news: it is never too late.

God’s grace is right now, and God’s blessing is from everlasting to everlasting.

Trust the Spirit’s call and let the blessing be for you, and through you.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Cello Solo

“Kol Nidrei”

Max Bruch, Op. 47

Scripture Reading

Genesis 12: 1-9

Homily

“Move On!”

*Hymn #545

“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!”

Verses 1 & 2

He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!

Whate’er I do, where’er I be, still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.***

***Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
by waters still, o’er troubled sea, still ‘tis thy hand that leadeth me.***

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.***

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“Offertory”

J.N. Beck

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 #489

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

***Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.***

***Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.***

***Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.***

*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.

***Please rise in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116. Our liturgy today was adapted from the work of Teri Peterson, usage rights granted to BibleWorm subscribers.

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: Al Fisk
Ushers: Nancy & Ralph Aceti, Annmarie Gavin
Greeters: Dottie Damon, John & Suzanne Paulson

Flowers today are given by Earl Springer and Lois Andre "in honor of our son, Clave Springer, who moved to Osaka, Japan this past Thursday to be with his fiancée, Momo."

Workshop on Prayer with Steve Garnaas-Holmes 10 am - 2:30 pm Saturday, October 3

On the weekend of October 3 and 4, Steve Garnaas-Holmes, retired minister, poet, and author, is coming to Dennis Union Church. He will lead a Saturday workshop on prayer and will preach and lead worship on Sunday, October 4.

The workshop on Saturday will include a light lunch at noon. This will be a lively interactive learning experience, and we will be blessed by his gracious use of language and articulation of faith. We are sure to have our hearts nourished and our spiritual practices of prayer expanded.

Mark your calendar, and we will be steeped in grace and joy together.

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
Director of Faith Formation for Youth & Adults: Doreen Mayer
Children's Ministries Coordinator: Evy Nickerson
Finance Secretaries: Elise Gordon and Vicki Marchant
Office Administrator: Jane Wilson
Sexton: Dave Crocker