

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Communion Sunday -Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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

"The King of Love, My Shepherd Is" (Celtic Psalm)

June Herold

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer

Silent Reflection

*Call to Worship

The world belongs to God,
The earth and all its people.
How good and how lovely it is
to live together in unity.
Love and faith come together,
justice and peace join hands.
If the Lord's disciples keep silent
these stones would shout aloud.
Open our lips, O God,
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
Let us worship God.

*Hymn

"All the Wonder"

John Bell/ TUNE: AR HYD Y NOS

***All the wonder that surrounds us springs from God's care:
all that marvels or confounds us, raw, rich or rare;
touch and texture, sights and voices, natures' countless forms and choices,
all in which the heart rejoices springs from God's care.***

***Every creature, every human lives by God's grace:
every family, man and woman, cultures and race;
those whom fortune seems to favor, those exploited for their labor,
those who need to know a neighbor live by God's grace.***

***How can we revere God's goodness meant for all time?
How ensure that each uniqueness keeps in its prime?
How can we revere with pleasure all God gives for life and leisure?
How preserve each earthly treasure meant for all time?***

*God has willed that peace and justice walk hand in hand.
These, with love, shall build foundations on which we'll stand:
love for lover, friend and stranger, love defying death and danger,
love as firstborn in a manger -- heaven close at hand.*

*Invocation

**Come, God of the poor,
come, Light of our hearts,
come, generous Spirit.
By the glory of your creation around us,
by the comfort of your forgiveness within us,
by the wind of your Spirit eddying through the centuries within these walls,
renew us, so that we come glad to this celebration. Amen.**

Anthem "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" (Celtic Psalm) June Herold

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Prayer of Confession

O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches.
Open our eyes to see.
O God, your living waters are slowly being poisoned with chemicals.
Open our eyes to see.
O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants.
Open our eyes to see
O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering.
Open our eyes to see.
God our Maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,
that we repent and care more deeply.
So move us to grieve the loss of life,
that we learn to cherish and protect your world.

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Grace "Lord Have Mercy Upon Us" Hymnal #300
*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Scripture Reading Portions from Genesis 1 and 2

Homily "Seeing the Sacred"

*Hymn #285

“How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely”

*How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.*

*In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord
than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.*

*A sun and shield forever are you, O God most high;
you shower us with blessings no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.*

Call for the Offering/Offertory “As We Come Together”

Stan Pethel

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Words of Institution

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God our Maker.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord.

Because you, gracious God, have been faithful to us, we will be faithful to Jesus.

He promised to be with those who met in his name:

this we believe.

He promised to hear the prayers of faithful people:

this we believe.

He said that in the communion of bread and wine he would be present to us

and we remembered him:

this we celebrate.

So send now your Spirit among us, and upon this bread and wine, that we may taste and see your goodness, be embraced by your love and be engaged in your service.

Amen.

As Jesus did, so we do. We break this bread. We share this cup.

We believe that he who lived, died and rose again for us, will meet us here.

**Graciously nourish us, O Christ, so that we who try to follow you
May receive food for the journey and be bound in solidarity
with all who walk in your way of love. Amen.**

Choral Response

The gifts of God for the people of God! Come now, for all is prepared!

The gifts of God for the people of God! The Gospel is among us.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Please hold each element so we can partake together as a congregation.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Give thanks for all God's goodness:

God's love shall last forever.

Generous and faithful God, you have fed us at your table.

May the nourishment we have received enable us to enrich the lives of others wherever we may go from here.

Whether the future be dark or bright, the road be smooth or rough,

whether our cares be light or heavy, our song be strong or weak,

keep our hearts warm and our hands open,

our lives ever embracing and ever embraced by your love.

Amen.

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 # 695

"God of the Fertile Fields"

Verses 1, 2 & 4

***God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread;
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in ev'ry land be clothed and fed.***

***We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
for people everywhere, that all may live.***

***God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one;
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you;
guide all we say and do, till life is done.***

***Sending Forth / Passing of the Peace**

Before we leave this time of worship let us greet one another with the peace 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

"To a Wild Rose"

Edward McDowell

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 today's liturgy adapted from *The Iona Community Worship Book*, Wild Goose Publishing. "All the Wonder" from *Known Unknowns 100 Contemporary Texts to Common Tunes* by John L. Bell and Graham Maule.

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: Dennis Goyette

Ushers: Patti Goyette, Priscilla Hutchinson, Earl Springer

Greeters: Bob Bullard, Dottie Damon

Flowers today given by the family of Paul Woudenberg "In loving memory of Paul"

We welcome June Herold, who joins us to play settings of Celtic Psalms on a Celtic Lever Harp.

June retired from Hospitality Management for Sheraton and was also Concierge at Wequassett Resort. Her interests reflect her Scottish heritage: Celtic harp, curling, and golf, as well as ukulele, hiking and travel. She is honored to share her music with us today.

SAVE THE DATE!

Come and join us at our annual DUC Homecoming Picnic directly after the service on Sunday, September 13. Everyone is welcome, wear your casual picnic clothes and enjoy good food, good friends and good fun!

Please sign up to bring a dessert, side dish or salad. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks are provided. Hope to see you all on the lawn!

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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