DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 11, 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

God declares, out of the land of Egypt I have called my people.
We trust the One who shows us a way where there was none.
Bitter waters I will make sweet.
And springs of water and palm trees offer rescue to weary souls.
When hunger rises, I will rain down bread from heaven.
And we will be nourished by the hand of God.
Let us worship God
and celebrate being God's covenant people.

*Hymn #17 "O Worship the King" Verses 1, 3 & 4

O worship the King, all glorious above,
and gratefully sing God's wonderful love,
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power has founded of old,
established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

*Invocation

The whole earth is yours, O God. From the beginning of the story,
you have been drawing us toward you.
We give you thanks that you have brought us this far
even when we feel like we have to trudge every step.

Though we don't know how to be your people, still you coax, call, and carry us forward.
Show us again today what it means to be people who live close to your heart, not through our own efforts, but yours. Amen.

Anthem "Sing to the Lord a New Song" Robert Lau

Call to Confession

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer:

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, we struggle to live fully in community, with you and with each other. Yet you desire genuine relationship, and you continually show up with grace and justice. We are grateful for your steadfast love that extends beyond our imagination, and for your passion to set things right. You are the One to whom we turn, in joy and sorrow, in fear and frustration, in hope and anticipation. Carry us once again God-ward, that wherever we find ourselves, we may trust your presence and turn our eyes to your way. Give us courage to keep your commandments, just as you keep us. We ask in your Holy name.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

God has called us and will lead us, even in the wilderness places.
Through Christ, we trust that God loves us and will be with us always.
We are indeed loved and forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

First Scripture Reading Exodus 19: 3-7

Special Music "Love Is the Touch"

Love is the touch of intangible joy; love is the force that no fear can destroy; love is the goodness we gladly applaud: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain; love is the will to be whole once again; love is the trust of a friend on the road; God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son; love is the kingdom their will has begun; love is the path which the saints all have trod: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Second Scripture Reading Exodus 20: 1-17

Homily "Love is the Reason"

*Hymn #76 "The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young"

The care the eagle gives her young, safe in her lofty nest,
is like the tender love of God for us made manifest.

As when the time to venture comes, she stirs them out to flight,
so we are pressed to boldly try, to strive for daring height.

And if we flutter helplessly, as fledgling eagles fall,
beneath us life God's mightly wings to bear us, one and all.

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 #18 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" Verses 1, 2 & 4

All people that on earth do dwell, sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
delight in God whose praise you tell, whose presence calls you to rejoice.

Know that there is one God, indeed, who fashions us without our aid,
who claims us, gives s all we need, whose tender care will never fade.

Proclaim again that God is good, whose mercy is forever sure,
whose truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.

*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. "Love is the Touch" from *Common Ground - A Song Book for All the Churches.* Words by Alison M. Robertson, music by John L. Bell. Portions of our liturgy written by Terri Peterson, rights given to BW 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: Dennis Goyette
Ushers: Mary Czajkowski, Cindy Johnson, Kate Lazarovich
Greeters: Dottie Damon, Jeff Gordon

Flowers are donated today by the Clancy family
"In memory of our sweet Linny. With love from Mom, Dad, Margaret, Caroline and Ellen"

Today at 1 pm, the 57th annual CROP Walk for Hunger will take place in both Sandwich and in Wellfleet. CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the US and around the world.

There is info on the hallway board if you would like to participate. Checks can be made out to CWS/cropwalk - or note CROP on the envelope - and placed in the collection plate today. The Missions Committee will also make a donation to CROP on behalf of DUC.

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