DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost October 18, 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 "Hail, This Brightest Day of Days" J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer and Silent Reflection

*Call to Worship

Listen to the good news. God is with us, this day and every day.
Because God is with us, we can face each day with courage.
We can find some good in everything, for we are never completely alone.
God's goodness sometimes seems to be a trickle,
sometimes pulsing spurts, and sometimes a mighty flood.
But always God is with us.
We worship you, O God, for your goodness.
We praise you with our songs and our prayers.
We offer ourselves to you
because you are our God.

*Hymn #289 "What Is This Place"

What is this place where we are meeting? Only a house, the earth its floor,
walls and a roof sheltering people, windows for light, an open door.
Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here,
and know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling, sparks that are sown in us like seed.
Names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are what we need.
We in this place remember and speak again what we have heard:
God's free redeeming word.

And we accept bread at this table, broken and shared, a living sign.
Here in the world, dying and living, we are each other's bread and wine.
This is the place where we can receive what we need to increase:
God's justice and God's peace.

*Invocation

Gracious God, you have established your Covenant with us, promising to be our God and calling us to be your people. Calm our anxious hearts and order our scattered lives by writing your Word on our hearts. Instill your ways in us, and restore in us the grace of your Covenant, so that we might worthily worship you by serving you, now and always. This we pray in the way of Jesus and the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Word for the Young

Anthem "Angels Visit Us When We Sing" E. Daley

Call to Confession

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer:

Prayer of Confession

The grace of God be with you.
And also with you.
Trusting in God's tender mercy, we bring our whole lives into the light of God's grace.
For those times we have been most in harmony with you, O God, we give thanks.

- Silent reflection -

God of grace, we thank you,
for your mercy is great.
For those times we have been most out of harmony with you, O God,
we ask your forgiveness and healing.

- Silent reflection -

God of grace, we thank you,
for your mercy is great.

- Silent reflection -

Assurance of Grace

Siblings in Christ, in the love of God and the grace of our Beloved Jesus Christ your sins are entirely forgiven, and you are set free to live by the power of God's Spirit alone, now, to eternal life.
Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading Exodus 32: 1-20

Homily

*Hymn #248 "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove, with all your quickening powers;
kindle a flame of sacred love in these cold hearts of ours.

Hosannas languish on our tongues, and our devotion dies.
Waken our souls to joyful songs; let pure devotion rise.

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove, wth your enlivening ways;
come, shed abroad the Savior's love, and teach our hearts to praise.

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.

Call for the Offering

Offertory "Pastorale" N. LeBègue

*Hymn #62 "Creator God, Creating Still" Verses 1, 2 & 3

Creator God, creating still, by will and word and deed,
create a new humanity to meet the present need.

Redeemer God, redeeming still, with overflowing grace,
pour out your love on us, through us, make this a holy place.

Sustainer God, sustaining still, with strength for every day,
empower us now to do your will. Correct us when we stray.

*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 "Cortége" M. Archer

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 our liturgy are from unfoldinglight.net. and *Flames of the Spirit* by RC Duck.

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: Joe Hesse

Ushers: Steve Higgins, Bev Miller, Jane Wilson

Greeters: Dennis & Patti Goyette, Peggy McAloon

Flowers are given today by Jeff Gordon "to celebrate 50 years of marriage to my best friend. Thank you, Elise for fifty years of love, laughter and beautiful moments together."

Join us for a Special Presentation by the Alzheimer's Family Support Center
Sunday, October 25, 2026

11:30-1:00 pm in the DUC Multi-Purpose Room

Join Founder and Co-owner Molly Perdue as she presents a special program "Reducing Risk For Dementia" and "Cognitive Health" with Q&A time too. Light refreshments will be served - sign up outside the church office. Please direct questions to Doreen Mayer

We NEED Trunks! Trunks for the Trunk-or-Treat

Would you like to decorate your trunk for a fun Halloween event for our community? Please sign up by the bulletin board by the office. Come on Saturday October 24 at 10 am to set up in front of the church. Our event will be from 11 am until 1 pm.

Unable to join us for the Trunk-or-Treat but still would like to lend a hand? We'll be collecting Halloween Candy to pass out for the event. Please bring your donations as soon as possible - you can leave donations by the office.

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