DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost October 25, 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 "St. Catherine" G. Young

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer and Silent Reflection

*Call to Worship

In faith, Abraham and Sarah set out for a new land.
In faith, Moses led the people out of Egypt to the edge of the promised land.
In faith we seek to follow God in all we say and do each day.
In faith, the church continually seeks to understand what tasks
God has set before us in this moment in time.
In faith, we gather now to worship,
knowing that as we reach out to God, God will make us new.
Give us the faith, O God, to go forward
and embrace the newness to which you call us.

*Hymn #22 "All Creatures of Our God and King" Verses 1 & 4

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing; Alleluia, Alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

And all forgiven tender hearts,
forgiving others, take your part, sing praises, Alleluia!
You who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God, who knows your ev'ry care.
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Invocation

We cry aloud to you, O God. Hear our prayers. In times of trouble, we need your comfort. Amid our confusion, we seek your clarity. For temptations of the flesh, we beg for liberation. Lead us away from the false gods we create, that we may meet you here with full expectancy and eager responsiveness. Amen.

Stewardship Moment Judy Livingstone

Anthem "I Will Give Thanks" J. Martin

Call to Confession

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer:

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
you are the flower I have walked upon,
for I was in a hurry;
you are the ripe berries I have eaten without gratitude or wonder,
for I was hungry;
you are the stranger I did not help,
for I was afraid.
For all the sins that I know and that I do not know,
forgive me, God.
Heal me, make me new,
and help me, by your Spirit,
to walk in your ways. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

There is no greater joy in the heart of God than this moment now!
For in this moment, we trust that God grants us new life and forgiveness of our sin!
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven by grace!
With great joy, we are made alive! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture Reading 1 Kings 3: 4-9, 16-28

Homily

*Hymn "Be Thou My Wisdom" TUNE: "Be Thou My Vision"/SLANE

Be thou my Wisdom and grant me your sight.
Help me to see by your love's perfect light.
Love, be my compass, my balance, my Way:
guide from within what I choose day by day.

Grant me the Wisdom to seek and to learn, to
pray for your leading and wait and discern.
Help me to listen with all of my heart,
listen for all of the Truth you impart.

Grant me your Wisdom: a heart that's made pure,
courage to follow a love that is sure.
Led by your Spirit, listening still,
help me to know and to follow your will.

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 "Samanthra" C. Callahan

*Hymn #494 "They'll Know We Are Christians" Verses 1, 2 & 3

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

*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 "Ebeneezer" G. Young

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. Liturgy: portions from writings of Steve Garnaas-Holmes and from *Gathered by Love, Year C* by Lavon Baylor. "Be Thou My Wisdom" words by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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: Gary Forrister
Ushers: Dennis & Patti Goyette, Lisa Sherman
Greeters: Kate Lazarovich, Emily Woudenberg

Flowers are shared today by Lois André from the Taste of Dennis event this week.

Join us for a Special Presentation by the Alzheimer's Family Support Center
Today in the 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.

Back by Popular Demand. . . .

SAVE THE DATE FOR LET'S DO DINNER
Your choice to be a GUEST or a HOST - Friday, November 13

Sign-ups begin Sunday 10/25 during Fellowship Hour
Join in an evening of food and friendship!

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: Thom Higgins