Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA

Summer 2026

The Season of Pentecost/Ordinary Time

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

Church of the Covenant
Boston, MA
July 12, 2026 – Bates Hall
10:30 am
The Season of Pentecost/Ordinary Time
Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/cotcworship

Gathering Song *Down by the Riverside*

Gonna lay down my burdens
Down by the riverside (x 3)
Gonna lay down my burdens
Down by the riverside study war no more

I ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more (repeat)

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.
Many: And also with you.

Experiencing God

*** Call to Worship**

*** Kindling the Christ Light**

One: The light of Christ,
Many: Thanks be to God!

*** Opening Hymn**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 547

St. 1–4, John Newton, 1779; alt.
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, *1790*

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, *which included this hymn.*

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
(NEW BRITAIN)
Columbia Harmony, *Cincinnati, 1829*
Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

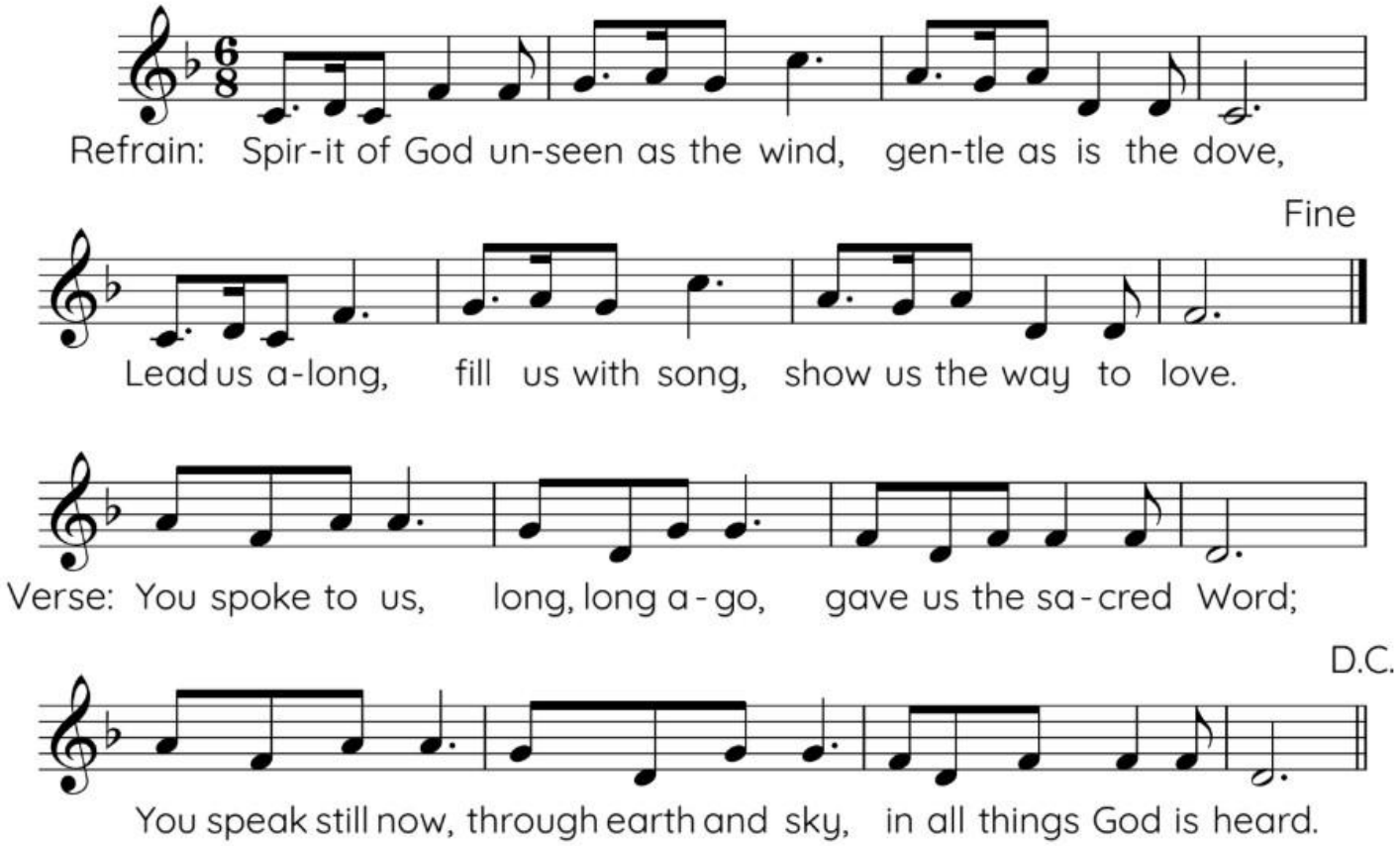
Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

Many: **In Jesus Christ we are set free and made whole.**
Alleluia, Amen!

*** Sung Response** *Spirit of God*



Scripture Readings

One: God is still speaking, the word of God,
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response (refrain only) *Spirit of God*

Reflection on the Word

Call to Offering

Online Giving Option: www.cotcbos.org/give

Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General.

Offertory

*** Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Update on PCUSA General Assembly

Celebrations & Concerns

One: God, in your grace,
Many: Receive our prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

*** Closing Hymn** NCH (black) 474 (verses 1, 3, 1) *I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me*

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me (x3)
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me (x3)
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me (x3)
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

*** Charge & Benediction**

*** Exchange of the Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
Many: And also with you.

≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈/≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈

SUMMER AT COVENANT

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE COVENANT! We are so glad to have you worshipping with us today! If you are new to our community, we hope you will feel at home and welcome during this service. If you have any questions about who we are as a community of faith, please reach out to an usher in person or our Digital Minister in the chat. We are worshipping in Bates Hall over the summer to take advantage of the cooling that the air conditioner provides. If you are interested in seeing our historic sanctuary, please ask an Usher, or visit it during our Open Sanctuary hours this afternoon (1:00-5:00 pm). The sanctuary is also open on Friday, Saturday, and Monday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

DURING JULY AND AUGUST WE WILL USE ONE STANDARD BULLETIN. Hymns and other announcements will be shared during the service. Please help us save paper and return this bulletin to the back of the sanctuary following the conclusion of worship. Each week, we send up-to-date announcements via *This Week at Covenant*. To join the mailing list: cotcbos.org/this-week-at-covenant.html.

WELCOME CHILDREN & YOUTH!! Welcome to all children, youth, and families—those we know already and those who are here for the first time. Our Godly Play and other classes don't meet during the summer, but the nursery is open most Sundays. Families are welcome to drop off young ones in the nursery or to stick around or come and go as you feel comfortable. If you need help finding us, please ask an usher. We share CYCE info regularly via email, so please email Rev. Kate at *kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org* if you want to receive updates.

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP. Please join us each Sunday at 10:30 am as we come together in community to pray, sing, share celebrations and concerns, and hear God's still-speaking Word proclaimed in these hybrid (in-person and Zoom) services.

- July 5: Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence Lazard preaching
- July 12: Rev. Rob Mark preaching
- July 19: Sunday Worship, Life Alive Brunch After Worship
- July 26: Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence Lazard preaching, Commissioning of & Farewell to Rev. Joshua, Reception for Rev. Joshua After Worship

FAREWELL TO REV. DR. JOSHUA ON JULY 26. Please join us after worship on **Sunday, July 26**, when we will celebrate Rev. Joshua's past six years with us and wish him well as he departs to become a professor at Washington and Lee University in Virginia. We will commission him during the service and Deacons and Council will host a reception.

OPEN NEWBURY. Newbury Street is closed to motor vehicle traffic on six **Sundays in July and August: July 12, 19, and 26, and August 2, 9, and 23**, from **10:00 am to 8:00 pm**. That means no parking on Newbury Street *and* Berkeley Street. Please plan your travel to church accordingly.

STAFF VACATIONS. Current schedule for staff vacations based on Sundays:

Tom: July 26, August 2, 9, and 16, September 6
Rev. Rob (summer sabbath): August 2, 9, 16, and 23
Rev. Kate: July 5, August 9 and 16
Nancy: July 5, August 2, 16, and 23

GUEST MUSICIAN. During Tom's vacation (dates above), Yangfan Xu will be leading our music. We are delighted to welcome Yangfan back to Church of the Covenant this summer!

CHOIR & MUSIC MINISTRY. Our volunteer choir is off for the summer and will resume on September 13 with Sunday morning rehearsals at 9:30. If you would like to sing with the choir on a weekly basis, or for special occasions, please contact our Minister of Music at *thomasghandel@gmail.com*.

SACRED RECKONINGS. The Sacred Reckonings Team is starting to excavate more of the history of our church building, and the water that was here before it: Who was paddling and fishing here? Why was the bay filled in? Who did the filling? Where did the money to build the church come from? Whose hands built the church? We're beginning during the week of July 13 by visiting local resources, including Covenant archives. The goal is to add to the history already collected to create a more complete, honest, and inclusive picture. If you would like to join the new Truthdiggers team in this effort, please contact Christine James (*cj.chrisjames@gmail.com*). Or maybe you know, or could point us toward, some history of our church—we would love to hear about it. We're also looking for suggestions that could help us find a community historian. Every bit helps. Thank you!

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT: SAVE THE DATE! The all-church retreat will be held on **Saturday, October 24,** back at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham.

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS. Our Bible Study gathers at 9:45 on Wednesday mornings on Zoom and is currently exploring the Apostle Paul's treatise on God's faithfulness in the book of Romans. If you are interested in joining, email Jack Ammerman at *jwacooks@gmail.com* for more information and the weekly Zoom link.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS 6:00-6:30 pm. We meet for Evening Prayers on Zoom on **Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 6:30 pm** with intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms, and sharing of prayers with our siblings from Newton Presbyterian on Zoom. Evening Prayers will be on hiatus for the month of August.

VIDEO CAMERAS/POSTING FULL SERVICE RECORDINGS. To best serve our diverse community and new worshippers, we livestream and record each service, including Celebrations & Concerns. If you would prefer not to be in occasional camera shots, you are welcome to sit on the outside aisles on either side of the sanctuary. Recordings of each service are available on our Worship Recordings Page (*cotcbos.org/worship-recordings*).

WEEKLY CALENDAR. Click here (cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events) to view the weekly calendar of events.

HYMNS STREAMED with permission under One License #A-741135.

Visitor or Newcomer? Welcome to Church of the Covenant!

We are glad you are here. Please let us know if there are ways we can help you connect to the church community. Learn more about the church by visiting our website at www.cotcbos.org. To sign up for email updates about worship services and other events in our community, please fill out a visitor's card in your pew, or email us at info@cotcbos.org.

Parking Bargain – Worshippers may park at the Back Bay Garage [Clarendon Street, between Boylston and St. James] on Sundays between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm for the first three (3) hours for only $5. To get this discounted rate, please ask an Usher before or after the worship service for a parking discount sticker.

Prayers of Celebration or Concern May Be Shared in the Red Book – At the rear of the Sanctuary is a red book where prayers that you wish to have spoken aloud during the Pastoral Prayer time may be written. The book will be available until the time of the offering.

Time of Greeting – After worship this morning, we hope that you will take a few minutes to connect with others worshipping with you, especially people you may not know as well.

Hearing Assisted Devices – Speak with an usher if you would like to use these devices that work with or without a hearing aid. These devices are specifically designed to work only with our sound system. Please remember to return the device at the close of the service. Thank you!

Building Accessibility – Our building includes an exterior ramp on Newbury Street and an elevator (in the Parish House part of the building) which allows access to the fellowship hall, meeting rooms, offices, and other parts of the building. We also have accessible restrooms. Please ask an usher to help you locate these resources.

NEW TO COTC? We are so glad you are here! Let us know a little bit about how we can welcome you by filling out the form at this QR code, and learn more on our website at *cotcbos.org*. Note that your information goes only to our pastors and you will not be added to any email lists.

Church of the Covenant is focused on following Jesus in our world through accompaniment, compassion, peace, joy and creative beauty.
We are passionate about hospitality, committed to justice, and wild about faith.
We embrace an embodied spirituality that is not afraid of questions.
We advocate for a just climate for our earth, liberation in our world, and equality in our neighborhoods.
We are a community where ALL are welcome and celebrated as beautiful reflections of God– all genders, all faiths, all orientations, all backgrounds, all abilities, all ages, all struggles, and all hopes. Come journey with us!

Church of the Covenant
Boston Massachusetts

67 Newbury St., Boston MA 02116 | (617) 266-7480 | www.cotcbos.org

Worship at Church of the Covenant is the heart and soul of our life together as a community of faith. Since 1932 we have been a federated church, maintaining membership in the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA) and welcoming pilgrims from all traditions to our life and work. Through our prayer and praise, in our concerns and celebrations, by word and sacrament, art and silence, we seek empowerment, together and individually, as a covenant people, for the work of Christ.

Jesus taught that the Spirit invites all people, including society's marginalized, to enjoy seats at God's table. This congregation seeks to demonstrate that vision by welcoming individuals and families without regard to race, gender identity, age, physical/mental condition, or sexual orientation. We rejoice in the presence of children among us as integral to our community. We maintain vital ties of faith with the Church of the Poor in the community of the Sweet Name of Jesus, in Northwestern Nicaragua.

We believe God's blessings are found in marriage equality for all. Thus, we joyfully welcome the opportunity afforded us by our Commonwealth and both denominations to join couples of any sexual orientation in fully legal and holy marriage.

Covenant's sanctuary resides on the ancestral and unceded lands and waterways of the Massachusett people. We lament the pain of displacement, honor the ongoing work of repair, and give thanks for all past, present and future stewards of this sacred place.

In our worship we use language and imagery that reflect the wonderful diversity of the image of God in humanity and all of creation; that transcend the exclusive language of the church's past. And as stewards, we seek to live into the Spirit's blessing as we move in solidarity on this shared and sacred, common home we call earth. We invite you to join us in the journey toward God's justice and peace for all of Boston and beyond!

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rob Mark, *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence Lazard, *Associate Pastor*
Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*
Bill Brown, *Building Manager*
Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator*
Nancy Stockford, *Parish Administrator/Financial Secretary*
Jesús Vargas, *Sexton*
Soyoung Cho, *Childcare Provider*

CHURCH OFFICERS

Brian Bigler, *President of the Corporation*
Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*
Anita Gram, *Moderator of the Board of Deacons*
Faith Perry, *Treasurer*