For everything that becomes visible is light.

Ephesians 5:13

Motivated by Jesus' vision of justice and inspired by the past five years of our Climate Jubilee ministry, Church of the Covenant is braiding together our missional goals, with the Spirit's help, as we continue to strive to love God, neighbor, and earth. Through a fall preaching series, we will center our values of **participation** in Christ's body as the church, **connection** through fellowship with one another, and a **public witness** that moves us beyond the four walls of a church building to share the message of Jubilee about a loving, caring, and forgiving Jesus.

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

cotcbos.org

churchofthecovenant@cotcbos.org

Church of the Covenant in Boston's Back Bay has inherited a profound gift from generations of ancestors in faith: our National Historic Landmark sanctuary, resting above the ancient Quinobequin River estuary. We acknowledge this sacred space rests upon the unceded ancestral waters and lands of the Massachusett People and their predecessors, and we honor their continuing presence and sovereignty.

Our **Reframe the Light** initiative seeks to engage local artists in creating new ecclesiastical art installations that critique and transform the racialized narratives embedded in our sanctuary's imagery. This work grows out of our Renew the Light campaign to restore our non-figurative, nature-based clerestory windows. As part of that effort, we intentionally tithed 10% of all funds raised for racial justice and truth-telling. These consecrated funds will support the commissioning of artists and the facilitation of a collaborative discernment process that upholds the sanctuary's historic integrity while expanding its sacred witness.

As a predominantly white congregation, Church of the Covenant recognizes the moral and spiritual imperative to tell a fuller truth. We are committed to reinterpreting our sacred art to more accurately and beautifully reflect God's diverse and liberating vision for all of creation.

This historic sanctuary is both a blessing and a responsibility. Its Tiffany-designed stained-glass windows, installed in the late nineteenth century, depict biblical stories of God's liberating love. While some imagery reflects the progressive theology of its era, such as the inclusion of women and the acknowledgment of Hagar within the story of liberation, the overwhelming representation of human and angelic figures as white perpetuates harm. This "stained-glass whiteness" erases the historical and theological presence of non-whites, contributing to a broader legacy of white supremacy and racialized theology in American Christianity.

The process itself is central to the project. Guided by our pastors, church leaders, and community partners, we will engage the congregation in spiritual reflection through the United Church of Christ's Sacred Reckonings racial justice framework. Through deliberate, trust-based relationship building with artists and activists, we aim to create installations that embody beauty, justice, and repair. Through **Reframe the Light**, Church of the Covenant seeks to transform inherited symbols into sacred testimony that illuminates a more truthful, inclusive, and hopeful vision of God's liberating light for generations to come.

Rob Mark, Lead Pastor
Joshua Lawrence Lazard, Associate Pastor
Church of the Covenant