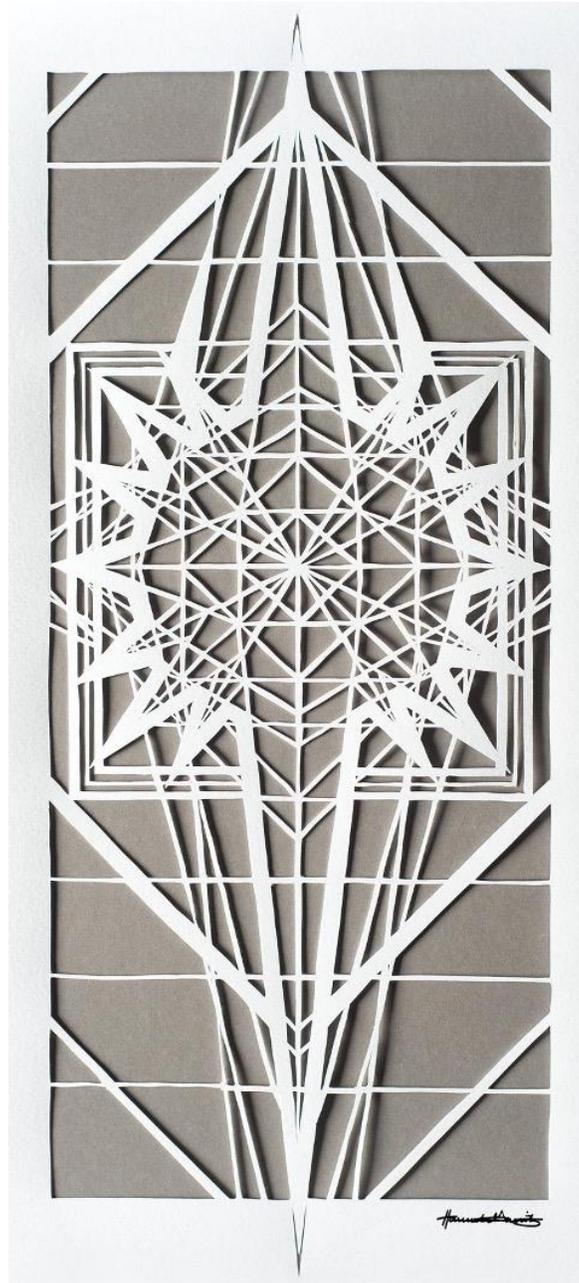


Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Second Sunday of Christmas

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

[ZOOM LINK \(click here\)](#)



Church of the Covenant

January 2, 2022, 10:30 am

Second Sunday of Christmas [Zoom Link](#)

Welcome!!! Unless sharing, please keep your mic on “mute”, but your voice and heart liberated to fully join in with the songs and liturgies as we worship God while on Zoom.

Please note this service is recorded and later posted on our church website.

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Prelude

What Child is This

arr. Gazda and Clark

Anita Gram & Barbara Englesberg – Violins

Call to Worship

“The Work of Christmas”

Howard Thurman

One: The symbol of Christmas — what is it?

Many: It is the rainbow arched over the roof of the sky when the clouds are heavy with foreboding.

One: It is the cry of life in the newborn babe when, forced from its mother’s nest, it claims its right to live.

Many: It is the brooding Presence of the Eternal Spirit making crooked paths straight, rough places smooth, tired hearts refreshed; dead hopes stir with newness of life.

One: It is the promise of tomorrow at the close of every day, the movement of life in defiance of death,

Many: ...and the assurance that love is sturdier than hate, that right is more confident than wrong, that good is more permanent than evil.

Opening Hymn: PH (blue) 40

Joy to the World

Prayer for Grounding in God’s Grace

Many: All-glorious God, we have faith in Jesus Christ, and love towards your people, yet we are not without blemish in your sight, not full of love, wisdom, and other spiritual blessings you still have available for us. Our love is not as inclusive as yours, and there is much we need to learn. In the new year, grant us clearer vision of all that we are

meant to be, so that by becoming fulfilled, we may increase the glory that is properly revealed in Jesus Christ, your beloved.

One: Let us now continue our prayer to God in silence...

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, hear the Good News! The liberator has come to free us and set us forth anew.

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

Sung Response

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Readings from Scripture

The Gospel of John 1:1-14

The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
God present to the Word.
The Word was God,
in readiness for God from day one.

Everything was created through him;
nothing—not one thing!—
came into being without him.
What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.

There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.

The Life-Light was the real thing:

Every person entering Life
he brings into Light.

He was in the world,
the world was there through him,
and yet the world didn't even notice.

He came to his own people,
but they didn't want him.

But whoever did want him,
who believed he was who he claimed
and would do what he said,

He made to be their true selves,
their child-of-God selves.

These are the God-begotten,
not blood-begotten,
not flesh-begotten,
not sex-begotten.

The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Creator, like Child,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.

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

Reflection on the Word

Call to Offering

Online Giving Option: <http://www.cotcbos.org/give.html>
Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General.

Offertory

Silent Night

arr. Kate Salfelder

Anita Gram & Barbara Englesberg – Violins

Doxology

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

Prayer of Dedication

Celebrations and Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

Closing Hymn PH (blue) 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

Charge and Benediction

Exchange of the Peace

(Please exchange greetings of Christ's peace and reconciliation)

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

Participating in Worship:

Worship Leader – Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Liturgist – Barbara Darling

Violin – Anita Gram, Barbara Englesberg

Cantors – Betsy & Tim Groves

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS AND 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 welcomed during this service. If you have any questions about who we are as a community of faith, please reach out to an usher or pastor, or chat with a member of staff online. Be most welcome!

UPCOMING WORSHIP: Please join us each Sunday at 10:30am as we come together in community to pray, sing, share celebrations and concerns, and hear God's still-speaking Word proclaimed. [Zoom Link for each Sunday.](#)

- Sunday, January 2, Second Sunday of Christmas, ZOOM
- Sunday, January 9, Epiphany Sunday, ZOOM (with CYCE in person outside)

COVID SAFETY: In light of Omicron, it is highly likely we will remain on Zoom only for the month of January for worship. We will keep all posted as we go along. If you have not yet, please get your booster in order to be fully vaccinated.

WEDNESDAY EVENING EPIPHANY PRAYERS 6-6:30pm: Our next weekly evening prayers will be this Wednesday, January 5, 2022, [on Zoom.](#)

ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION DEADLINE THIS WEEK: Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 6, 2022 following worship, and the deadline for reports to be submitted to our Parish Administrator Kate is Tuesday, January 4, 2022 – please email reports to kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org.

BIBLE STUDY NEW TIME THIS WEEK: The weekly Friday morning Bible Study will begin the New Year as the Wednesday Morning Bible Study, gathering on Zoom at 9:15 each week, beginning January 5. We've bid farewell to the Apostle Paul and his early church friends and will say hello to Hosea and the other 'minor prophets.' If you'd like more information or want to be on the list to get regular reminders and Zoom info, contact Nancy Ammerman, ntammerman@gmail.com.

NO PLACE AT THE INN? A CHALLENGING WINTER: For many reasons, this will be a challenging winter. One way we can help those experiencing homelessness in downtown Boston is to support our partners Women's Lunch Place, who have an ongoing wish list for items, found here: <https://womenslunchplace.org/in-kind-donations>.

OUR TIFFANY WINDOWS WEBINAR: Jan. 13, 6pm: Historic New England is sponsoring a webinar on **Thursday, January 13, 2022, from 6-7 PM**, where Roberto Rosa will be presenting his preservation work on Covenant's priceless Tiffany windows. We expect that this will not only be informative to a much larger preservation audience, but will generate interest in supporting the ongoing Renew the Light Campaign. Please attend this online event as it promises to be fascinating. [Register here for the webinar.](#)

CLIMATE JUBILEE BOOK DISCUSSION: Join us on Sunday January 30, 5pm on Zoom for a book discussion on Katherine Hayhoe's new book *[Saving Us : A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World](#)*. This could make a great CHRISTMAS GIFT to someone you'd like to invite into this discussion, or for yourself! Please though, we ask you to avoid buying from Amazon.com and instead [use this link](#) to find a local bookstore if you feel safe going to in person, or a less eco-impactful company than Amazon to purchase from.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING: Our next CYCE gathering will be this coming Epiphany Sunday, January 9. We hope to meet in person, outdoors, at COTC with families and CYCE teachers, if COVID precautions and weather allow. More info to come this week via email. If you're interested in getting involved with CYCE, please [email Rev. Kate](#).

20s-30s-40s GROUP AT COVENANT: We have an active young adult group that meets regularly to create community, even while we can't be together physically, including weekly prayer calls, brunches (sometimes online!), fellowship and support. If you would like to be added to our email list, contact Rev. Joshua at joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org

POSTING FULL SERVICE RECORDINGS/ PRAYERS ONLINE: Due to techno-challenges we have decided we will be posting the entire service that is livestreamed online on our [Worship Recordings Page](#). Please let us know if you have any questions. Thanks.

UPCOMING STAFF VACATION SCHEDULES: Sunday Dec. 26, Tom and Joshua will be off. All staff will take the week of Dec. 27-Jan 1 off, with Rob and Kate taking Jan. 2 off. If there are pastoral emergencies during that week, please be in touch with our Deacons, or Rob if needed, and building emergencies please be in touch with Bill.

BULLETIN COVER ART: *Another Road*, by Hannah Garrity, Inspired by Matthew 2:1-12

WEEKLY CALENDAR Click [here](#) to view the weekly calendar of events.

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**Church of the Covenant**  
Boston Massachusetts

**67 Newbury St., Boston MA 02116 | (617) 266-7480 | [www.cotcbos.org](http://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 and inquirers 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 outcasts, 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, and we strive to include them in our ministry. We maintain 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 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church USA to join couples of all sexual orientations in fully legal and holy marriage.

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. Joshua Lazard, *Associate Pastor*  
Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*  
Bill Brown, *Building Manager*  
Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator / Parish Administrator*  
Nancy Stockford, *Financial Secretary*  
Fred Lopes, *Sunday Sexton*  
Alan Lane, *Food Cupboard Coordinator*

#### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

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