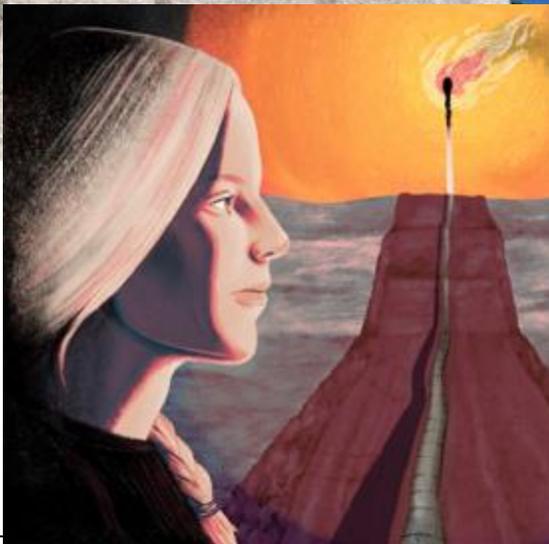
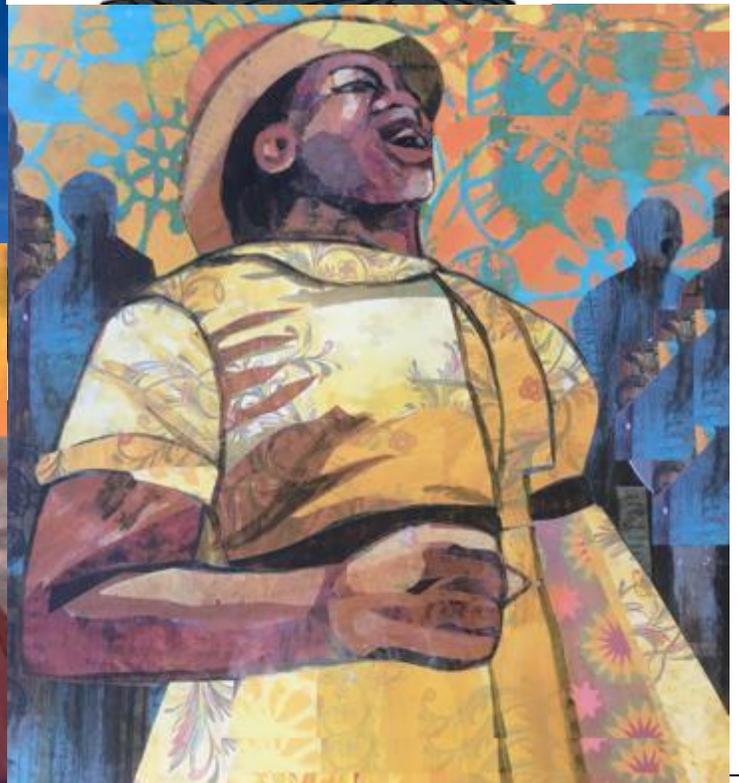
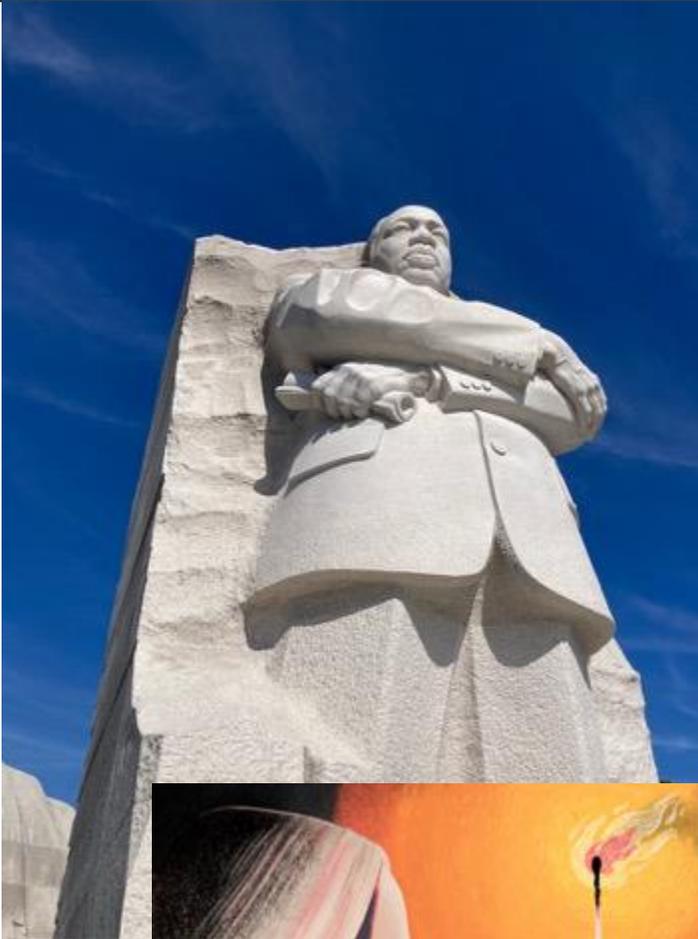


# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



**The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Dismantling Structural Racism Sunday**

*Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ*

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



# Church of the Covenant

January 16, 2022, 10:30 am

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dismantling Structural Racism Sunday

The Second Sunday of Epiphany [Zoom Link](#)

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*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

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

arr. Fred Bock

## Call to Worship

One: Listen, people of God, for the voice of God is calling:  
“The ultimate measure of a [person] is not where [they] stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where [they] stand at times of challenge and controversy.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> MLK, Jr. *Strength to Love*, 1963.

“Every step towards the goal of justice requires...struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> MLK, Jr. *Stride toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story* 1958.

Many: **In difficult times, God calls us to join the movement of courageous truth-tellers.**

One: In comfortable times, God calls us to join the movement of silence-breakers.

Many: **In times of struggle, God calls us to join the movement toward freedom.**

One: In times of peace, God calls us to join the movement toward justice.

Many: **In all times, God calls us to join with the movement of the Spirit.**

One: Listen, people of God, for the voice of God is calling:  
“Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle  
for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself,  
a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.”<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>2</sup> MLK, Jr. March for Integrated Schools, April 18, 1959.

Many: **Let us worship God, listening for the voice that calls us  
to join the movement of love.**

## Kindling the Christ Light

### Opening Hymn

*God We Wonder Where to Find You*

*BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D (“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”)*

God, we wonder where to find you; should we turn our eyes above?  
How can people understand you? Is your love a distant love?  
Do our songs rise up to heaven? Does that language still ring true?  
In this world of joy and suffering, God, we wonder: Where are you?

God, we wonder at our calling; is it only in the church?  
We may struggle with tradition; where are you, God, in our search?  
We are taught that you are gracious; can we find you in new ways?  
Could there be some brand new places where you challenge and amaze?

We are grounded in creation — in the water, dirt and sky,  
And we find the Spirit's presence as we hear creation's cry.  
For we see in life's beginning what is now and always true:  
We're at home in what you've given, called to care for earth for you.

We are grounded in our neighbors, in our loved ones, in our towns,  
And in daily, loving labors, where your signs of grace abound.  
Here in Christ we love each other, and we care for the oppressed;  
Spirit-filled, with one another, we are grounded! We are blessed!

God, we trust that you are with us, dwelling in the here and now.  
When we struggle to live fully, your compassion shows us how.  
As we work to bring your justice, as we seek your peaceful way,  
As we put our faith in practice, may we find you, God, today.

# God, We Wonder Where to Find You

1. God, we won - der where to find — you; should we turn our eyes a -  
 2. God, we won - der at our call - ing; is it on - ly in the  
 3. We are ground - ed in cre - a - tion in the wa - ter, and  
 4. We are ground - ed in our neigh - bors, in our loved ones, in our  
 5. God, we trust that you are with - us, dwel - ling in ther here and

bove? How can peo - ple un - der - stand you? Is your love a dis - tant  
 church? We may strug - gle with tra - di - tion; where are you, God, in our  
 sky, And we find the Spi - rit's pres - ence as we hear cre - a - tion's  
 towns, And in dai - ly, lov - ing la - bors, where your signs of grace a -  
 now. When we strug - gle to live ful - ly, your com - pas - sion shows us

love? Do our songs rise up to heav - en? Does that lan - guage still — ring  
 search? We are taught that you are gra - cious; can we find you in — new  
 cry. For we see in life's be - gin - ning what is now and al - ways  
 bound. Here in Christ we love each oth - er, and we care for the — op -  
 how. As we work to bring your jus - tice, as we seek your peace - ful

true? In this world of joy and suf - fer - ing, God, we won - der: Where are you?  
 ways? Could there be some brand new plac - es where you chal - lenge and a - maze?  
 true: We're at home in what you've giv - en, called to care for earth for you.  
 pressed; Spi - rit - filled, with one an - oth - er, we are ground - ed; we are blessed!  
 way, As we put our faith in prac - tice, may we find you, God, to - day.

Music: *Beach Spring*, melody from *The Sacred Harp*, 1844;  
 attr. Benjamin Franklin White (1800-1879)

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Email: [bcgillette@comcast.net](mailto:bcgillette@comcast.net) New Hymns: [www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com)

This hymn is based on *Grounded: Finding God in the World--A Spiritual Revolution* by  
 Diana Butler Bass (Harper One, 2015)

## Prayer for Grounding in God’s Grace

One: The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King once said, “The person who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as the one who helps perpetrate it. The person who accepts evil without protesting against it, is really cooperating with it.”<sup>1</sup> Let us take a moment to confess before God and each other the evil we have perpetrated and the evil with which we have cooperated by doing nothing to prevent it. Trusting in the mercy of the God who calls us to justice, let us confess our sin.

**Many:** God of justice and mercy, you call us to speak prophetically amid difficult times. We admit that sometimes we are unwilling to give up our comfort and safety to follow where your voice leads us. When we use excuses like, we can't find the right words, or the moment has passed, or it would have been rude to say...forgive us. Give us the courage to join the movement toward racial justice by speaking your words of justice, peace, and love, even when we are fearful. Guide us as we seek to find new ways to follow your call of truth-telling. In the name of the one who is the Word of love that we speak, **Jesus Christ, we pray.**

**One:** Let us open ourselves to God now in silent prayer...

## **Listening to God in Silent Prayer**

### **Assurance of God's Grace**

**One:** When we are freed to acknowledge the wrongs around us, the pain among us, the sin within us, and the work before us, God's movement of mercy, peace and justice is being revealed in our midst. Our burdens are lifted, and the liberating love of God is at work within us. Therefore, let us celebrate together:

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

### **Sung Response:**

*Gloria*

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

## **Scripture Readings**

**Hebrew Bible Reading:** Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Greater Boston's {Jerusalem's} sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the rulers your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name

that the mouth of the HOLY ONE will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of THE DIVINE,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;  
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,  
and your land Married;  
for the HOLY ONE delights in you,  
and your land shall be married...and your God will rejoice over you.

**Gospel Reading:** John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

**Sermon**

*Who Fills the Jars?*

**Call to Offering**

Online Giving Option: <http://www.cotcbos.org/give.html>

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

**Offertory**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Thomas Dorsey

## Doxology

Though what we have in truth is small,  
God's grace shall be enough for all.  
So as we bless and break this bread,  
Each heart be filled, each mouth be fed.

## Prayer of Dedication

### Celebrations and Concerns

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

## Pastoral Prayer

### Celebration of Holy Communion

### Invitation to Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!

Many: **And also with you.**

One: People of Epiphany, let us lift up our hearts!

Many: **We open our hearts to the Spirit who fills us with hope.**

One: Let us give thanks to God our light.

Many: **It is right for us to offer our thanks and praise to God.**

One: It is right for us to thank and praise you God...

...And so, with your people here on earth, with all the ancestors,  
with Martin, Fannie, Sojourner, Breonna, Ahmaud, Desmond and all  
the saints and the great company of heaven, we glorify your name,  
praising you together:

Many: **Holy, holy, holy One, God of heaven and earth. All  
creation is full of your love and grace. Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of peace. Hosanna  
in the highest!**

One: Holy are you, O God...

## **The Prayer of Jesus**

*(from A New Zealand Prayer Book, said in unison)*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Parent of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

## **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

## **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.**

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## **Participating in Worship:**

**Preacher** – Rev. Rob Mark

**Co-Celebrant for Communion** – Rev. Joshua Lazard

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Liturgist** – David McKinney

**Lector** – Evelyn Kimber

**Digital Minister** – Rev. Kate Carlisle

**Soloist** – Tom Reid

**Cantor** – Austin Burns

**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 a member of staff in the chat. Be most welcome!

**OMICRON AND ZOOM:** In light of COVID's Omicron spread, we have decided to prioritize public health and have shifted our worship to ZOOM ONLY through at least Sunday, February 6. This we pray will help keep our worship leaders and worshippers safe, and reduce the significant burden on our area medical professional caregivers in these challenging times. February 6 is also our Annual Meeting which once again needs to be held online for our community.

**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 16, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion
- Sunday, January 23, Rev. Kate preaching
- Sunday, January 30, Rev. Joshua preaching
- Sunday, February 6, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion, Annual Meeting

**STAR WORDS:** For several years now, we have received Star Words on Epiphany Sunday to serve as guides for prayer and discernment in the coming year. This year, we're distributing Star Words virtually. If you didn't get a Star Word last week, email Rev. Kate ([kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org)) to request one. Whether you write your word on a post-it or cut out and decorate a star, put your star word somewhere you can see it and bring your thoughts back to it over the coming year.

**TIME FOR LIVING THE CHANGE:** With an adult ed session last Sunday, our Climate Jubilee Team invited our congregation to join in a "[Time for Living the Change: Climate Friendly Lives for People of Faith](#)". This timely challenge for the rest of January will allow you to live out one simple but impactful climate friendly resolution in solidarity with other people of faith around the globe. A survey is coming out soon and will be sent around for you to submit your resolution. Questions, please email [Rev. Rob](#) or [Betty Southwick](#).

**THE DENOMINATIONAL MEETINGS** of the Central Congregational Society (Barbara Darling, chair) and the First Presbyterian Society (Nancy Hollomon, chair) will be held on 30 January 2022 at 11:50 AM on Zoom for the purpose of electing the nominees – Joan Tighe (UCC) and Donald Denniston (PCUSA) – to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2 years in the class of 2023.

**THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATION AND CONGREGATION** will be held on Sunday February 7, 2022 at 11:45 AM on Zoom for the purpose of adopting the 2022 budget, electing 3 members to the Covenant Council for a 3-year term, 4 members to the Board of Deacons for a 3-year term, and accepting 2 members to the nominating committee as elected at the denominational meetings.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING EPIPHANY PRAYERS 6-6:30pm:** Our next weekly evening prayers will be this Wednesday, January 19, 2022, [on Zoom](#).

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS:** Our weekly morning Bible Study is each Wednesday morning on Zoom at 9:15am. 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](mailto: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>.

**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\*](#). 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.

**BOOSTERS:** As a reminder, being “fully vaccinated” now includes having a booster within 60 days of when eligible. If you have questions about this, please reach out to pastors, staff or Deacons – we are here to help.

**CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** Once again, we’re postponing in-person gatherings to prevent COVID spread, and we’ll continue sending updates and resources 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. We’ll be gathering on Zoom for brunch together today at 12:30 pm, and again on February 20 and March 20. If you would like to be added to our email list, contact Rev. Joshua at [joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org](mailto: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.

**BULLETIN COVER ART:** (Clockwise) Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Washington D.C, Isra Hirsi (by Nissa Tzun), Jessica Reznicek (by Amelia Bates), Fanny Lou Hamer (by Ekua Holmes)

**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*