

# Church of the Covenant

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

**The First Sunday in Lent**  
***Grotto: Reside & Resist***  
[ZOOM LINK \(click here\)](#)



# Church of the Covenant, Boston MA

March 6, 2022, 10:30 am

The First Sunday in Lent / Grotto: Reside & Resist  
Celebration of Holy Communion [Zoom Link](#)

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Welcome and thank you for worshipping together for this “hybrid” service where some will be in the sanctuary of their homes, and some in the sanctuary at 67 Newbury Street. For those joining online, we will plan to begin on Zoom. Service is recorded and later posted online.

## Prelude

*Pastoral (movt. 1 and 2)*

J. S . Bach

## Welcome, *Breathe* & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

## \*Call to Worship

One: As we enter this sojourn called Lent,

Many: **May we follow the Spirit’s mystical summons.**

One: As we imagine, create and reside in the grottos God has for us,

Many: **May all that is dear to us find shelter under God’s all-encompassing, loving wing.**

One: And as Christ leads us to emerge into action,

Many: **May we find new strength to resist and persist.**

One: In this season, in our lives, in this hour,

Many: **May we worship in joyful gratitude!**

## \*Kindling the Christ Light

## \*Opening Hymn:

*We Pray for Peace*

Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

TUNE: FINLANDIA (“This is My Song”)

We pray for peace, O God of love and justice,

as once again, we face a time of war.

The meek and humble try — amid the crisis —

to love and build, to nurture and restore.

May leaders hear the truth the prophets teach us —

that gifts of peace are well worth struggling for.  
We pray for peace, O Christ who calmed the waters —  
who stilled the storm, who stilled disciples' fear.  
You spoke with love and with amazing power;  
be with us now when trouble is so near.  
May leaders see the miracle you offer —  
that words and deeds can calm the nations here.

We pray for peace, O Spirit here among us;  
your love emboldens, judges and restrains.  
Take any hate and acts of impulse from us;  
make leaders wise, amid competing claims.  
May we seek peace, O God of love and justice;  
may love and mercy be our highest aims.

### **Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace**

**Many:**     **Nourishing God, as we enter the wilderness and caves with Jesus, we ask that you open all our senses to your presence. During this journey, may we open ourselves to honesty and self-reflection. May we see and feel how some of the things we have done, some of the things we have left undone, and some of the systems of privilege from which we benefit – hurt others. May we be converted anew to the ways of reconciliation, compassion and love of neighbor.**

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

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

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

**One:**     Just as the Spirit was present to Jesus in the wilderness, God's presence is with us in all times and in all places. There is nothing therefore that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. Therefore, let us celebrate together:

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

## **\*Sung Response**

*This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (x3)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine (x3)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

## **Readings from Scripture**

### **Hebrew Bible Reading:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that your GOD is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that your GOD is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that your GOD will choose as a dwelling for God's name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say, "Today I declare to your GOD that I have come into the land that The Holy One swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of your GOD, you shall make this response before your GOD: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Oppressors treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Holy One, the God of our ancestors; who heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. GOD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and They brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Adonai, have given me." You shall set it down before your GOD and bow down before the Holy One. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that your GOD has given to you and to your house.

### **Gospel Reading:** Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Child of God, command this

stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

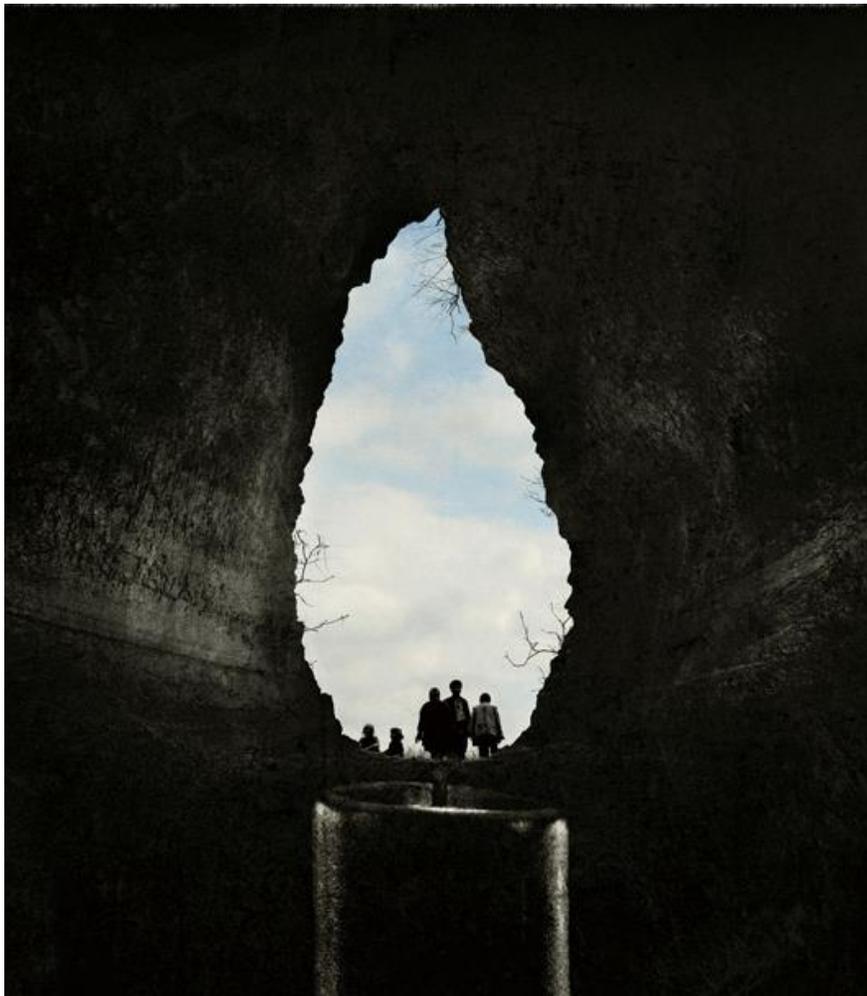
Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Worship The Holy One your God, and serve only God.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Child of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘God will command the angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put The Holy One your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

**Sermon**

*No Place on Earth*



**Hymn:** NCH (black) 211

*Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days*

**Moment for Generosity – “G”** – Holly Humphreys (<https://wck.org>)

**Call to Offering**

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

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

**Offertory**

*Pastoral (conclusion)*

J. S. Bach

**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 the Table**

**Communion Summons**

*I’m Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table*

I’m gonna eat at the welcome table,  
I’m gonna eat at the welcome table, some of these days.  
I’m gonna eat at the welcome table,  
I’m gonna eat at the welcome table, some of these days.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

One: May God be with you!

Many: **And also with you.**

One: People of the Grotto, 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, 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**

**Call to Resist:** Climate Jubilee: “Heat Pumps for Peace & Freedom”

*Bill McKibben, climate activist and founder of [350.org](http://350.org), is urging a major effective way to help Ukraine, protect our planet, lessen the grip of world tyrants and oligarchs, and thus promote peace. Each of us at Covenant can join this effort. Here's how:*

It is critically important that we urge President Biden to immediately invoke the Defense Production Act (DPA) to get American manufacturers to start producing electric heat pumps in quantity, so we can ship them to Europe where they can be installed in time to dramatically lessen Putin's power. Russia's power, nuclear weapons aside, is based almost entirely on its production of gas and oil. 60% of its export earnings are hydrocarbons. Europeans currently are dependent on this fuel to heat their homes--but this can change by providing modern electric heat pumps on a mass scale. The DPA ("Expansion of Productive Capacity and Supply") allows the President to act, without convincing obstructionists in Congress. It is a non-military response that reduces European dependence on Russian gas and weakens the Putin regime, while helping with the climate crisis and promotion of world peace.

### **Action items:**

- Write to President Biden with this message: Invoke the Defense Production Act to get American manufacturers to start producing electric heat pumps in quantity, and ship them to Europe where they can be installed to reduce reliance on Russian fuels and lessen Putin's power.
- For those in MA:
  - Write to Senator Elizabeth Warren and ask her to urge the President, as above. Write to Senator Ed Markey, as above.
- For those outside of MA, find and write your Senators:  
<https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>
- Sign this MoveOn.org Petition calling for President Biden to invoke the Defense Production Act.
- **Read McKibben's full explanation of this campaign.**

### **\*Charge and Benediction**

### **\*Exchange of the Peace**

*(Please exchange greetings of Christ's peace and reconciliation while respecting personal space preferences and public health safe distancing)*

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

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Liturgist – Rev. Joshua Lazard

Lector – Anne Crane

Cantors – Betsy and Tim Groves

Video Techs – Derek Holbrook, Jon Schwarz

Digital Minister – Rev. Kate Carlisle

Door Steward – Jesus Vargas

Usher – Trudi Veldman

Call to Resist – Evelyn Kimber & The Climate Jubilee Team

Bulletin Cover – “Birthing Cave”, Sedona Desert on Indigenous Sinagua People land  
in what is now known to us as Arizona

**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!

**LENT 2022: GROTTO – RESIDE & RESIST: MARCH 2 – APRIL 17**

Discovering spiritual power from entering the inner life and emerging for action. *Grotto (noun: from Italian grotta, via Latin from Greek kruptē (see crypt))*: a small, subterranean cavern or human-made cave-like shrine often linked to gardened landscapes connoting a place of rebirth and renewal. Join us this Lent as together, inspired by sacred stories from our scriptures, we will build our own at-home grottos and decorate them each week with images, ideas, words, beliefs, mentors, influencers, callings, and passions. From these places of residing in God’s nurture, potential and new beginnings, we will emerge in solidarity through weekly calls to action and advocacy as we resist the powers of empire and fear.

**RETURN TO HYBRID WORSHIP:** Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2, and on Sundays beginning today, March 6, we are returning to hybrid worship. As in

the fall, those worshipping in person at 67 Newbury must pre-register, must be up to date on vaccinations, and must wear a mask at all times in the building. Worship will continue to be accessible to all on Zoom. Pre-register for all services at [rsvp.church/r/L77KlTal](https://rsvp.church/r/L77KlTal).

**BUILDING YOUR OWN GROTTTO:** This Lent, we invite you to put on your creativity hat, and join us in making your own home-grotto. Inspired by sacred stories from our scriptures, we will build our own at-home grottos and decorate them each week with images, ideas, words, beliefs, mentors, influencers, callings, and passions. You can start with a shoebox, any cardboard box bound for the recycling bin, a matchbox, a little wooden box, a special corner of your room, or a sacred spot in your back yard. Any “place” is fine – we just invite you to think of a place that will remain intact over the 6 weeks journey through Lent. Each week, following worship, we invite you to spend the week adding things to your grotto. Perhaps a word or a phrase from the scripture or hymns or liturgy in worship. Perhaps a photo from a bulletin cover, or an image you take and print out, or find on the internet. Perhaps something you make. Perhaps an item from nature. The sky is the limit. Think creativity and build a grotto that will become a sacred place for you to “go” and further reside in the expansive and wild love of God during your Lenten journey. A journey that is both yours individually, and ours collectively in community. For those who wish to share photos of their grottos along the way or around Holy Week, we welcome the sharing and mutual inspiration. Questions? Ask away.

**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 in these Hybrid services (in-person and Zoom options). [Zoom Link for each service](#).

- Sunday, March 6, Lent 1, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion
- Sunday, March 13, Lent 2, Celebration of the Word Service with Nica Companions leadership
- Sunday, March 20, Lent 3, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
- Sunday, March 27, Lent 4, Rev. Rob preaching

**SUNDAY PRELUDES – COME EARLY:** As we begin to re-emerge into hybrid worship again, we will for the first time in 2 years begin to place the prelude back to its original place at the head of our worship services. Therefore, please come to worship by 10:25 in-person or on Zoom in order to take in the prelude.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS 6-6:30pm:** Our weekly evening prayers w/ intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms & sharing of prayers will meet this Wednesday, March 9 with our siblings from Newton Presbyterian Church [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).

**20s-30s-40s UPCOMING BRUNCHES WITH ANIMATE VIDEO SERIES:** 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 are expecting to have our next brunch on March 20<sup>th</sup> in person. If you have more questions or would like to be added to our email list, contact Rev. Joshua at [joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org).

**CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** At long last, we are resuming in-person CYCE activities downstairs for ages 5 and up during this Lenten season, beginning next Sunday, March 13. We're also looking forward to our next all-ages service on Palm Sunday, April 10. Parents of younger kids, we're also able to open the nursery for one household at a time – let us know if you're interested. We'll continue to send updates and more details via email. If you're interested in getting involved with CYCE, please [email Rev. Kate](#).

**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](#).

**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.

**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*