

Church of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ



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



Church of the Covenant, Boston MA

March 13, 2022, 10:30 am

The Second Sunday in Lent / Grotto: Reside & Resist

Celebration of the Word Service

With Nica Companions [Zoom Link](#)

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

When in the Time of Utmost Need

J. S. Bach

Welcome, *Breathe* & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

***Call to Worship**

One: As we continue in this sojourn called Lent, as people on a journey,

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:** NCH (black) 514

Over My Head / Arriba de Mi

Verse 1 in English (hymnal), Verse 2 in Spanish (below), Verse 3 (hymnal)

Over my head, I hear music in the air (x3)

Arriba de mi, oigo música en el aire (x3)

There must be a God somewhere!

Tiene que haber un Dios aqui!

Verse: Cuando veo a mis hermanas/ hermanos, oigo música en el aire (x3)

Tiene que haber un Dios aqui!

(When you greet me as a sibling; there must be a God somewhere!)

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

People: God Who *is* Somewhere, God Who is Here, we thank you for going the road with us. We thank you for the gift of community that spans from Nicaragua to Boston and beyond. We ask that our actions would bless You, as together we seek the reign of God. Help us to do Your will, in all places and always. Help us to struggle to obtain the bread of each day for everyone. Give us another chance, and help us to give others another chance. Help us to swim against the current, and free us from the structures of the world that exclude.

One: In solidarity, let us open ourselves to God now in silent prayer...

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: You are the God of the poor, the human and simple.

People: You struggle in the countryside and town, you line up in the work camp to get your daily wage.

One: You are the God with a weather-beaten Face.

People: We've seen you selling lottery tickets without being embarrassed by that job.

One: That is why we can talk with You,

People: You are the worker God, the worker Christ,
And so we celebrate, in you we are set free and made whole.
Amen.

- from the Nicaraguan Misa Campesina

*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

Reading from Scripture: Hebrew Bible: Exodus 33:1, 7-23

God said to Moses, ‘Go, leave this place, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, and go to the land of which I swore to Abraham, (Sarah, Hagar,) Isaac, (Rebekah), Jacob, (Leah and Rachel), saying, “To your descendants I will give it.” Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought God would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and God would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. Thus God used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp; but his young assistant, Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the tent. Moses said to God, ‘See, you have said to me, “Bring up this people”; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, “I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.” Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.’ God said, ‘My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’ And Moses replied, ‘If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.’ God said to Moses, ‘I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.’ Moses said, ‘Show me your glory, I pray.’ And God said, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, “The Holy One”; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But’, God said, ‘you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.’ And the Holy One continued, ‘See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.’

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

Reflection on the Word with DNdJ & COTC

Moment for Generosity – “R” – Christine James

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

Vayamos Cristianos (We're On Our Way, Christians)

Vayamos cristianos todos a anunciar
la Buena noticia de la resurrección
diciendo al mundo donde está el Señor
Está en los cielos,
Está en la tierra y en todo lugar.

Pero hay un lugar
donde no está Dios,
donde hay injusticia,
Dios no puede estar.

En quien vive pobre, triste y afligido,
en quien porque lucha sufre persecución,
entre los hambrientos y los sin hogar,
en quienes construyen,
en quienes construyen un mundo mejor.

El coro

En quienes lo buscan con sinceridad
entre quienes viven junto a la verdad
junto a los que luchan contra la opresión
junto a los que buscan, junto a los que buscan la
liberación.

El coro

Cuando nos reunimos en la comunidad
en medio de todos Cristo siempre está
Para ser el guía de nuestra unidad
para que vivamos,
para que vivamos en solidaridad.

El coro

We're on our way, Christians, everyone to announce
the good news of the Resurrection,
telling the world where the Lord is.
He is in heaven,
He is on the earth, He is everywhere.

But there is a place
where God is not present.
Where there is injustice
God cannot be.

He is in those who are poor, sad and afflicted,
in those who, because they struggle and suffer persecution,
among the hungry and those without homes,
among those who construct,
among those who construct a better world.

But there is a place
where God is not present.
Where there is injustice
God cannot be.

He is in those who sincerely seek Him,
among those who live with honesty,
together with those who struggle against oppression,
together with those who seek out,
together with those who seek out liberation.

But there is a place
where God is not present.
Where there is injustice
God cannot be.

When we meet In Community
Christ is always among us
to be the guide of our unity
so that we live,
so that we live in solidarity.

But there is a place
where God is not present.
Where there is injustice
God cannot be.

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

Celebrations and Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

Closing Hymn: NCH (black) 526

Siya-hamba ekuk-han-yen' kwen-khos' (x4)
Siya-hamba, siy-hamba, oh-oh,
Siya-hamba ekuk-han-yen' kwen-khos' (x2)

We Are Marching in the Light of God

We are marching in the Light of God (x 4)
We are marching, we are marching, oh-oh,
We are marching in the light of God (x2)

Marchamos en la luz de Dios (x4)
Marchamos, marchamos, oh-oh,
Marchamos en la luz de Dios (2x)

Call to Resist: Immigration Justice

This week, our Nicaragua Companions would like us to learn and act. They invite us to read an article about US immigration policies and then act by sending in reactions that will be shared with our siblings in Nicaragua.

Excerpts from Article in Washington Post, Friday, March 4, 2022

“Courts Issue New Directives to Biden on Border Expulsions”

A federal appeals court panel in the District ruled unanimously Friday that the Biden administration may continue expelling migrant families from the United States under a pandemic public health order but not into countries where they may face persecution — citing

“stomach-churning evidence” that the U.S. government has delivered people to places where they face rape, torture and even death.

The ruling’s impact on border proceedings was unclear, but analysts said it would require the government to introduce new screening procedures for migrants who state a fear of harm if sent back to Mexico or their home countries under the public health rule.

[I]t means families who were quickly expelled to nations such as Haiti will now have a chance to undergo a more thorough screening at the border to see if they qualify for protection in the United States. That will probably mean interviews to see if they have valid fear of persecution, and possibly a hearing in immigration court, lawyers said.

CALL TO ACTION:

- 1) **Please read the full report in The Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/03/04/migrant-ruling-title-42/> , learn more about the U.S.’s conflicted, inconsistent southern border policy.**
- 2) **Email Diane Lauber or Tim Groves** any ideas, reactions or experiences that you have relevant to Immigration, especially at the U.S. Southern Border. It will be wonderful to have a wide voice of Covenant to share with our Siblings in Dulce Nombre de Jesús in Nicaragua.
- 3) **BONUS Action:** Please thank your legislators here in MA for their support of the Work & Family Mobility Act. https://www.aclum.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/work_and_family_mobily_act.pdf

WE HOPE & PRAY THAT THIS PROCESS CAN LEAD TO FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS FOR US AT COVENANT.

***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.**

Participating in Worship:

Worship Leaders – Members of our beloved Nicaragua Companions: Diane Lauber, Tim Groves, Karen Henry, Debbie Howland, and Kathy Bull / Siblings from Dulce Nombre de Jesús / Entre Culturas / and Rev. Rob Mark

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Cantors – Betsy and Tim Groves

Video Tech – Derek Holbrook

Digital Minister – Diane Lauber

Door Steward – Jesús Vargas

Sexton – Fred Lopes

Usher – Denice Thornhill

Call to Resist – Nica Companions

Bulletin Cover – Photo of church in Dulce Nombre de Jesús, and Upper Antelope Canyon on Indigenous Navajo People land in what is now known to us as Nevada

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, callings, & passions. From these places of residing in God's nurture, potential & new beginnings, we will emerge in solidarity through weekly calls to action & advocacy as we resist the powers of empire & fear.

PRE-REGISTER FOR HYBRID WORSHIP: While we give thanks that the cases continue to drop from the Omicron variant of COVID-19, we continue to ask that those worshipping in person at 67 Newbury pre-register, be up to date on vaccinations, and still wear a mask at all times in the building. Worship will continue to be accessible to all on Zoom. Thanks for your continued commitment to the wellness of the collective! Pre-register for all services at rsvp.church/r/L77KITal.

SUPPORTING UKRAINE: As we continue to hold the people of Ukraine and Russia in our prayers in light of Putin’s horrifying “war of choice,” here are some places to support:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/>
- United Church of Christ ACT Alliance: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/>
- World Central Kitchen: <https://wck.org>

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 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, April 3, Lent 5, Rev. Julie Avis Rogers, Director of Religious and Spiritual Life & Campus Chaplain at Emerson College guest 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.

LENTEN EVENING PRAYERS 6-6:30pm: Our weekly Wednesday evening prayers w/ intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms & sharing of prayers will meet this Wednesday, March 16 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.

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 20th 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.

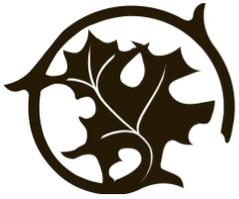
CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING: At long last, we are resuming in-person CYCE activities downstairs for ages 5 and up during this Lenten season, beginning **next Sunday, March 20**. We're also looking forward to our next all-ages service on Palm Sunday, April 10. Parents of younger kids, we're also 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](#).

CLIMATE JUBILEE BOOK DISCUSSION: Join us Sunday, March 27, 5pm [on Zoom](#), for a third book discussion inspired by Katherine Hayhoe's book: "Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope & Healing." Check out some short videos from her PBS page Global Weirding: <https://www.pbs.org/show/global-weirding/>

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*