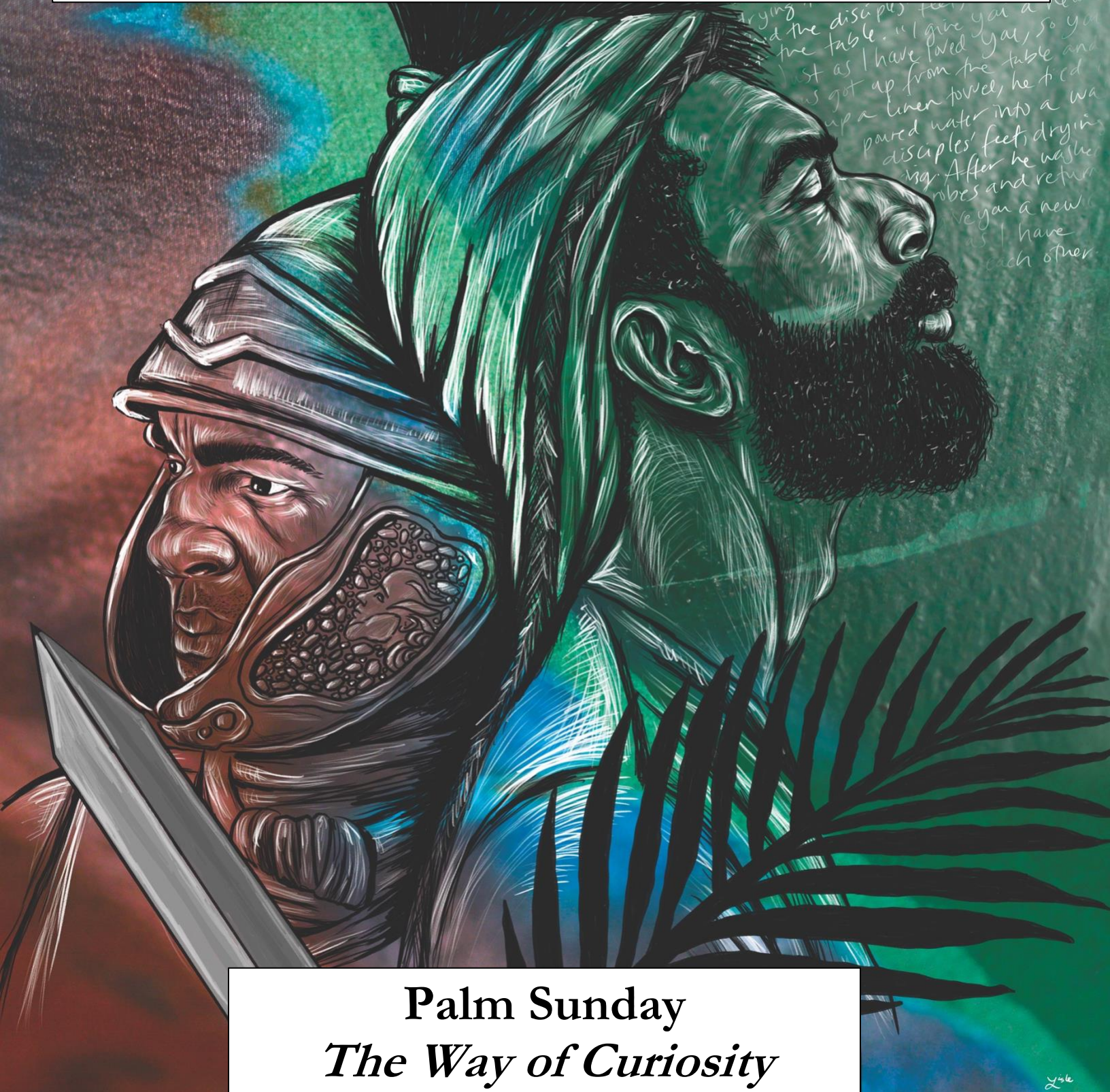


Church of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ



Palm Sunday
The Way of Curiosity
[ZOOM LINK \(click here\)](#)



Church of the Covenant

April 2, 2023, 10:30 am

Palm Sunday

[Zoom: tinyurl.com/cotcworship](https://tinyurl.com/cotcworship)

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, please keep your mic muted during the service. The full service is recorded and later posted online.

**You are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

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**Prelude**

*Voluntary VI*

John Stanley

## **Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

## **\*Call to Worship**

*from Psalm 118*

One: Give thanks to God, who is good;

**Many: God’s steadfast love endures forever!**

One: Let all the people proclaim,

**Many: God’s steadfast love endures forever!**

One: I give thanks to you, God, for you answered me,  
and you have become my salvation.

**Many: The same stone the builders rejected has become the chief  
cornerstone. This is God’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

One: This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of peace.

**Many: Hosanna in the highest!**

## **Gospel Reading: Luke 19:28-40**

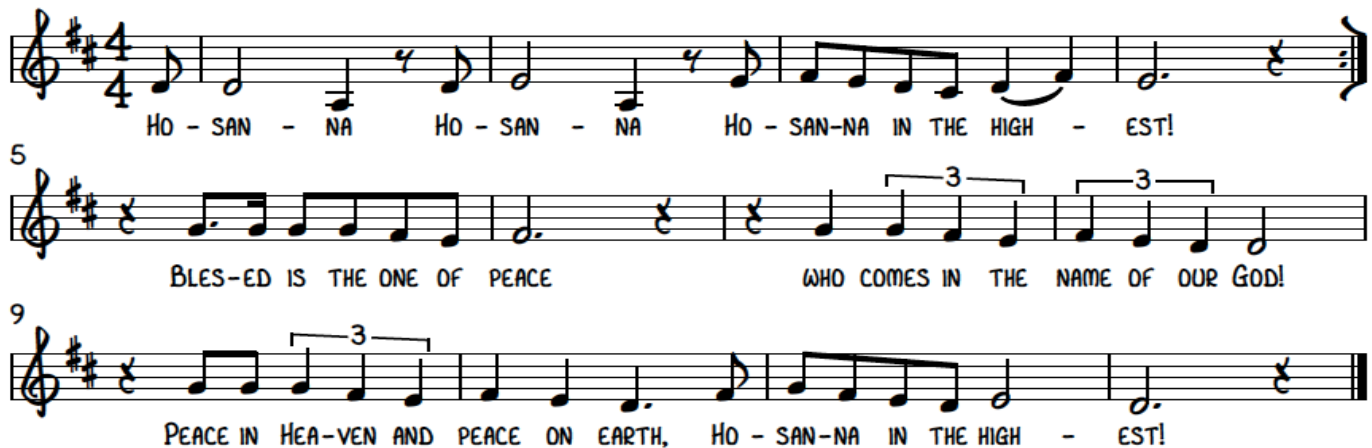
After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you

untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

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

## Invitation to the Procession

### \* Congregational Procession



### \* Opening Hymn: NCH 216

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!  
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.

O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,  
The one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine,  
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,  
Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.  
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

### **Moving Towards Holy Monday: Anointing with Curiosity**

#### **Kindling the Christ Light**

#### **Litany for Curiosity**

One: Ever Creative, Artist God,  
**Many: This Lent we ask for a spirit of sacred curiosity.**  
One: As we journey with Jesus along paths less traveled,  
**Many: May our hearts be filled with wonder.**  
One: As we feed our intrigue with inquiry,  
**Many: May we be surprised by truths yet to discover.**  
One: As we delve deep into new terrain,  
**Many: May our holy exploration be enchanted.**  
One: As we lovingly turn over stones in the search,  
**Many: May our fingernails get filled with divine dirt that directs us.**  
One: As we cultivate questions that inspire or unsettle,  
**Many: May we be filled with courage to dig deeper.**  
One: As we center more on the asking than the answering,  
**Many: May our wondering, marveling and daydreaming be graced.**  
One: And in our seeking, knocking, and asking,  
**Many: May doors be opened and the winds of new insight blow in blessing.**

#### **Questions for Holy Week**

### **Moving Towards Holy Tuesday: One Great Hour of Sharing**

#### **Call to Offering & One Great Hour of Sharing Moment for Mission**

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

*Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges, Gifts-General, or One Great Hour of Sharing.*

#### **Offertory**

*All Glory, Laud and Honor*

arr. Jan Bender

## **Moving Towards Holy Wednesday: Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace**

### **Invitation to Confession**

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

**Many:** Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus who saves us.

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

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

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

**One:** Friends, hear the Good News! In the death and resurrection of Jesus we see that God's grace overflows for all. There is no sin or transgression beyond the reach of God's mercy. There is no brokenness that God's steadfast love cannot heal. There is no power or principality or deep-rooted evil that God's fierce justice cannot rearrange. There is nothing in all of creation – not even death – that can separate us from God's love in Jesus.

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

## **Moving Towards Maundy Thursday: Celebration of Holy Communion**

### **Invitation to the Table: Luke 22:14-20**

When the hour came, [Jesus] took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

## Hymn

*Eat this Bread*

Eat this bread; drink this cup;  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread; drink this cup;  
trust in me and you will not thirst. *(repeat)*

## The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!

**Many: And also with you.**

One: People of curiosity, 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

**Our God, who is in heaven, holy is your name.**

**Your reign come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread & Sharing of the Plate and Cup

## Post Communion Prayer

## Moving Towards Good Friday: Praying at the foot of the Cross

### **Pausing before the Cross: Luke 23:42-46**

Then [one of them] said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

“It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last.

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Moving Towards Holy Saturday: Silence**

### **Invitation to Silence**

### **Closing Hymn: PH 97**

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter’s power;  
your Redeemer’s conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from His griefs away, learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of life arraigned;  
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from Christ to bear the cross.

Calvary’s mournful mountain climb; there adoring at his feet,  
mark the miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete;  
“It is finished!” hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay:  
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?  
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

### **Charge and Benediction**

### **Exchange of the Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

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## Worship Participants

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Worship Leaders** – COTC CYCE families and teachers, Rev. Kate Carlisle, Rev. Rob Mark, Rev. Joshua Lazard

**Moment for Mission** – Anne Crane

**Ushers** – Holly Humphreys, Anne Crane

**Audio-Visual Tech Team** – Jon Schwarz, Abhishek John

**Covenant Choir**

**Cover Art:** *Power Play*, by Lisle Gwynn Garrity, A Sanctified Art. Inspired by Matthew 21:1-11. Silk painting with digital drawing and collage.

**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 in person or in the chat.

**NEW TO COTC?** We're so glad you're here! Let us know a little bit about how we can welcome you by filling out the form at this QR code, and learn more on our website at [cotcbos.org](http://cotcbos.org).



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING.** Today on Palm Sunday, Covenant joins with thousands of other congregations, - Presbyterians, UCC, American Baptists, Methodists and more - in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). As Christians, we are connected to people who suffer, and sometimes we are overwhelmed by contemplating the needs of those who have been the victims of both natural and human made disasters. By giving through OGHS, we can support the victims of earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, wildfires and drought, as well as those who have been displaced and traumatized by war and violence. Our OGHS dollars support the victims of mass shootings and other forms of violence, like the Boston Marathon bombings ten years ago. They help those who are recovering from disasters and those who are simply working to alleviate poverty and hunger through sustainable development projects in the U.S. and around the world. Together through One Great Hour of Sharing, we can each make a big difference in the lives of those who suffer, so let's give generously. If you are worshipping in person today, you may put cash or a check in the offering envelope in your bulletin and put it in the offering plate. You may also mail a check payable to Church of the Covenant to 67 Newbury St., Boston MA 02116. Or you may donate online at [cotcbos.org/give.html](http://cotcbos.org/give.html). Select the One Great Hour of Sharing option. Thank you.

**NURSERY OPEN DURING ALL AGES WORSHIP.** Children and youth of all ages are always welcome to take part in worship at COTC. Today's worship is especially designed with all ages in mind, and we hope that the young ones among us will take part, especially in the Procession of Palms and in Holy Communion. The nursery is available downstairs for families and little ones – you are welcome to come and go as works best for you. Bates Hall is accessible via the stairs in the back of the sanctuary or by elevator; please see an usher for directions. If you're interested in learning more about our ministry with kids, youth, and families, email [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org) to learn more!

**NICA COMPANIONS ADULT ED TODAY.** Get a taste of the recent delegation to our sibling church in Nicaragua. Join the delegates after church today, in the Sanctuary or on the same Zoom link, as they bring alive their experience - including some of the sights, tastes, and sounds.

**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, April 2, All Ages Palm Sunday Service, Communion
- Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:30pm @ Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St.
- Good Friday, April 7, 7:00pm, Seven Last Words Tenebrae, COTC
- Holy Saturday, April 8, 1:00pm, Contemplative Vigil, Zoom only (*please note time change and move to Zoom*)
- Easter Sunday, April 9, Festive Music with Choir & Redline Brass, Rev. Rob preaching, Easter Egg Hunt following worship

**LENT 2023: The Way of Curiosity:** *Creatively opening ourselves to deeper truths through bolder questions.* Join us this Lent (Feb. 22-April 9) as we journey through the wilderness with Jesus, cultivating more joyful curiosity around topics related to our daily living in search of deeper truths. Together we will consider: Embodied Practices, Make Believe, Simple Living, Active Art & Banned Subjects. Let's get inquisitive & imagine a world where *more* (*beauty, joy, vision, love, God*) is possible.



**NO WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS THIS WEEK.** While we have opportunities to worship together on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this Holy Week, we will not have our regular Wednesday evening prayers on April 5.

**LIFE ALIVE MINISTRY.** Our young adults (aka “Life Alive”) enjoy a robust fellowship and community that gathers monthly for brunches and weekly for prayers. Want to join us or have questions? Email Rev. Joshua at [joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org).

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS.** Join our Bible Study group 9:15am Wednesdays to explore the Gospel of Matthew. You are welcome to join this group of comics and scholars, cynics and believers, in a warm online embrace, having fun debating the meaning and relevance of the Bible, then and now. If you'd like more information, contact Jan Gough at [revjangough@gmail.com](mailto:revjangough@gmail.com).

**ARTIST’S STATEMENT ON COVER ART:** In their book, *The Last Week*, theologians Marcus Borg and John Crossman assert that there were actually two parades occurring simultaneously in Jerusalem on this day. From the east, Jesus entered on a donkey. From the west, the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, entered with an imperial guard. They write: “Jesus’ procession proclaimed the kingdom of God; Pilate’s proclaimed the power of empire. The two processions embody the central conflict of the week that led to Jesus’ crucifixion.” This image is a meditation on these opposing processions and the embodiment of power. Pilate processes with a pompous display of armor, accompanied by soldiers. For him, power is displayed by superiority, elitism, and weaponry. Later in the week, he will use his power to satisfy the crowds willing Jesus to be crucified, despite not finding any offense to justify it (read John 18 & 19). He uses his power for violence, to appease the status quo. Jesus enters the city on a donkey with her young colt in tow. He wears no armor, only soft linens. In this image, I imagine if the composition were expanded, Jesus would be kneeling, humbling himself before his disciples as he washes their feet. In Jesus’ processional, members of the crowd lay down their coats as a display of humility and honor. This foreshadows the way Jesus will take off his outer robe and tie a towel around his waist to wash his friends’ feet. Jesus embodies power through a posture of vulnerability, through caring for those who desperately need love. Which parade you would join in Jerusalem has a lot to say about your definition of power. If you are quick to place yourself in Jesus’ parade, I encourage you to pause and consider these questions honestly: When have you aligned yourself with systems or people who have used their power for violence or to uphold the status quo? When have you embodied power through vulnerability and love for your neighbor?

**HYMNS STREAMED** with permission under One License #A-741135

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

## *Newcomer? Welcome to Church of the Covenant!*

We are glad you are here. Please let us know if there are ways we can help you connect to the church community. Learn more about the church by visiting our website at [www.cotcbos.org](http://www.cotcbos.org). To sign up for email updates about worship services and other events in our community, please fill out a New Visitor's Card and place it in the offering plate, or email us at [churchofthecovenant@cotcbos.org](mailto:churchofthecovenant@cotcbos.org)

**Parking Bargain** – Worshipers may park at the Back Bay Garage [Clarendon Street, between Boylston and St. James] on Sundays between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. for the first (3) hours for only \$5. To get this discounted rate, please ask an usher before or after the worship service for a parking discount voucher.

**Prayers of Celebration or Concern May Be Shared in the Red Book** – At the rear of the Sanctuary is a red book where prayers that you wish to have spoken aloud during the Pastoral Prayer time may be written. The book will be available until the time of the offering.

**Time of Greeting** – after worship this morning, we hope that you will take a few minutes after going outside the sanctuary to connect with others worshipping with you, especially people you may not know as well.

**Hearing Assisted Devices** – **speak with an usher** if you would like to use these devices that work with or without a hearing aid. These devices are specifically designed to work only with our sound system. Please remember to return the device at the close of the service. Thank you!

**Worship Recordings** – We will be posting the entire service, including our sharing of celebrations and concerns, that is livestreamed online on our [Worship Recordings Page](#). Please let us know if you have any questions.

**Building Accessibility** – our building includes an exterior ramp on Newbury Street and an elevator (in the Parish House part of the building) which allows access to the fellowship hall, meeting rooms, offices, and other parts of the building. We also have accessible rest rooms. Please ask an usher to help you locate these resources.



**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 marginalized, to enjoy seats at God's table. This congregation seeks to demonstrate that vision by welcoming individuals and families of all races, gender identities, ages, physical/mental abilities, and 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 and gender identities 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 & Jesús Vargas, *Sunday Sextons*  
Alan Lane, *Food Cupboard Coordinator*  
Kelsie Lawhorn, *Childcare Provider*

#### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

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