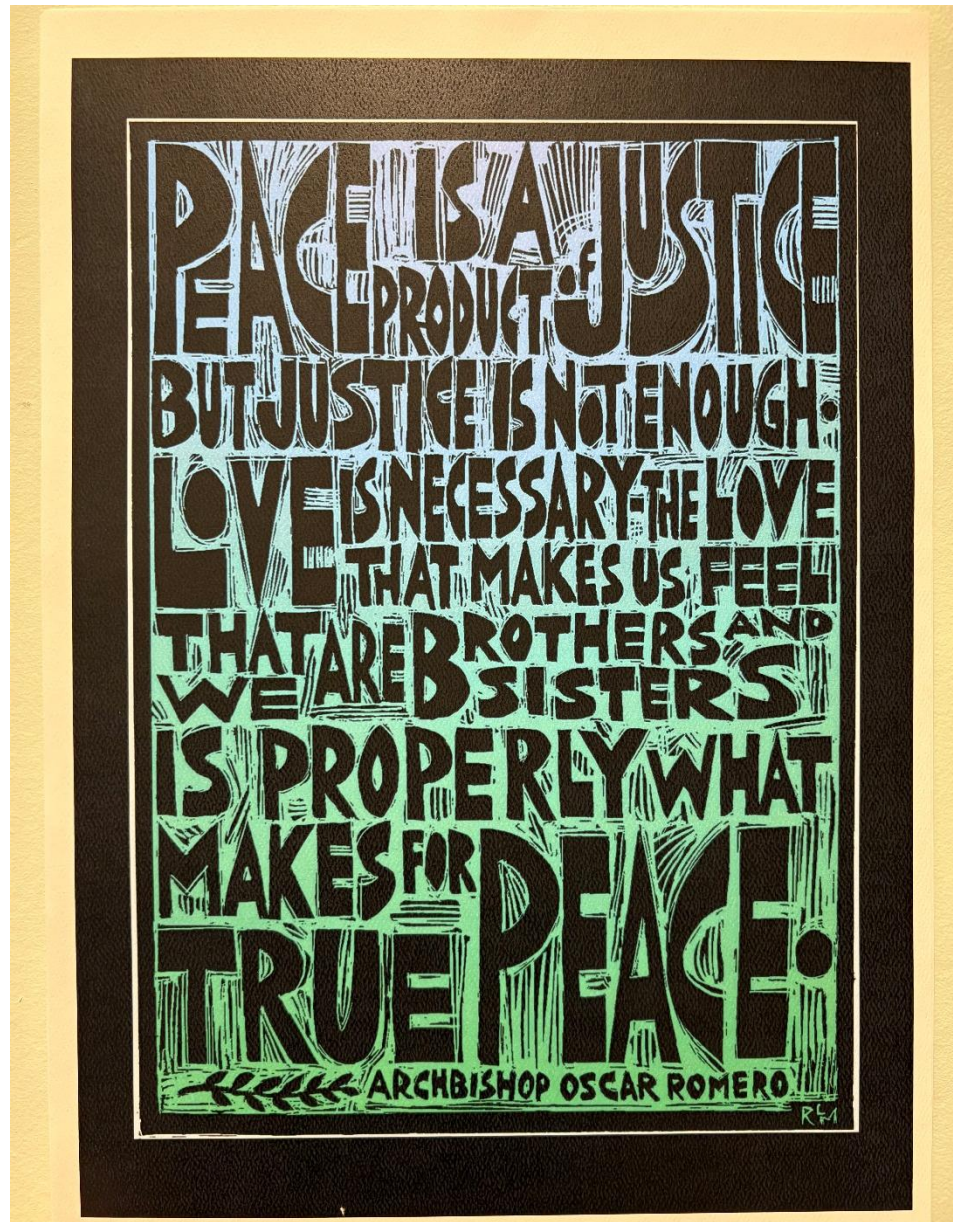


# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



Palm Sunday – Being **SEEDs**  
Sacred **E**mbodiment that **E**merges from the **D**epts  
April 13, 2025

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



**Church of the Covenant**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**Being SEEDs**

April 13, 2025, 10:30 am [Zoom Link](#)

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Welcome and thank you for worshipping together for this “hybrid” service where some will be in the sanctuary at 67 Newbury Street, and some in the sanctuary of places far and near. For those joining online, we begin on Zoom at the link above. Please keep your mic muted during the service.

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

**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

HO - SAN - NA HO - SAN - NA HO - SAN-NA IN THE HIGH - EST!

5 BLES-ED IS THE ONE OF PEACE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF OUR GOD!

9 PEACE IN HEA-VEN AND PEACE ON EARTH, HO - SAN-NA IN THE HIGH - EST!

## \* Opening Hymn

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

*Refrain:*

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. *Refrain*

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*

As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,  
Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway. *Refrain*

## \* Kindling the Christ Light

One: The light of Christ,  
Many: **Thanks be to God!**

## 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: Where can we go from your spirit, O God? Or where can we flee from your presence? Whether we ascend into the heavens, or make our bed in hell—you are there. If we were to take wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, you always hold us close in the hollow of your hand. Therefore, let us celebrate together:

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

**\* Sung Response** NCH (black) 500 (to the tune of *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*)  
We are seeds and God the Sower  
We are seeds and Christ the Water  
We are seeds and Spirit, Power  
May we rise up strong!

## Readings from Scripture

### Gospel Reading – Luke 22:7-14

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.” They asked him, “Where do you want us to make preparations for it?” “Listen,” he said to them, “when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, ‘The teacher asks you, ‘Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’” He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.” So they went and found everything as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him.

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

**\* Sung Response** NCH (black) 500 (to the tune of *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*)  
Rise, Shine, Give God Glory  
Rise, Shine, Give God Glory  
Rise, Shine, Give God Glory  
Children of the Light

## Reflection

## A Grounding Litany for Being Seeds

One: O Loving God, Gracious Sower of life,

Many: **This Lent we long to embody your love.**

One: As we journey with Jesus through the wilderness of this season,

Many: **Draw us closer to you, the earth, and one another.**

One: As we face the depths and challenges of living,

Many: **May we like seeds find nurture and courage in the soil of community.**

One: Inspired by our sacred texts, practices, and actions, move us from dormancy,

Many: **So we germinate as your people and emerge in the power of the Spirit.**

## Moment for Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

### Call to Offering

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

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

### Offertory

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

John G. Barr

### \* Communion Doxology

*Tune: Old Hundredth*

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 & 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 Covenant, 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 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 Bread & Cup

### Post Communion Prayer

#### \* **Closing Hymn** PH (blue) 553

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

For the fruit of all creation, Thanks be to God.  
For the gifts to every nation, Thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.  
In our worldwide task of caring For the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

#### \* **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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## Worship Participants

**Worship Leaders** – Rev. Kate Carlisle, Rev. Rob Mark, Rev. Joshua Lazard

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Moment for Mission** – Anne Crane

**Covenant Choir**

**Ushers** – Anne Crane, Denice Thornhill

**Digital Minister** – Sandra May

**Audio Visual Tech Team** – Venkatesh Balasubramanian, Abhishek John, Jon Schwarz

**Sexton** – Jesús Vargas

**Cover Art** – Ricardo Levine Morales

**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 to our Digital Minister in the chat.

**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 natural and human made disasters, especially now that US government aid has been so severely cut. 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 twelve 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 US and around the world. Together through OGHS, 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, you may put cash or a check in the provided offering envelope and put it in the offering plate. You may also mail a check payable to Church of the Covenant to 67 Newbury Street, Boston 02116. Or you may donate online at [cotcbos.org/give.html](http://cotcbos.org/give.html). Select the One Great Hour of Sharing option. Thanks!

**WELCOME CHILDREN & YOUTH!!** Welcome to all children, youth, and families—those we know already and those who are here for the first time. Everyone is encouraged to participate in our all-ages worship service for Palm Sunday as we process with palms and gather for Communion. The nursery is open today, and families and young ones are welcome to come and go between worship and the nursery as it works best for you. Most weeks we offer Christian Education for ages 3-9 (Godly Play) and youth 10+. If you need help finding us, please ask an usher. We share CYCE info regularly via email, so please email Rev. Kate at [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org) if you want to receive updates.

**SACRED RECKONINGS SPIRITUAL EDUCATION SERIES.** Join us on the first Sunday of each month after worship as our Sacred Reckonings Team engages us in a series related to the beauty of repair through truth-telling, spiritual practices, relationships, advocacy, and wealth return. This is a learning opportunity that we pray will help us in these challenging days. Save the dates as best you can: **May 4, June 1, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7.** Attendance at each session is not required (though helpful) as we learn together. Questions? Kathy Bull: [kaxianna@yahoo.com](mailto:kaxianna@yahoo.com) or Rev. Rob: [rob.mark@cotcbos.org](mailto:rob.mark@cotcbos.org).

**HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL.** Join GLOW on **Saturday, April 19, at 5:00 pm**, at Newton Presbyterian Church for our Easter Vigil Intergenerational Dinner Church. This is a safe and loving space that is intentionally queer and trans affirming. We'll light the new fire of Easter, and share scripture and song, time for discussion, Communion, and a potluck dinner. Adults, youth, and kids of all ages are invited—everyone is welcome! Please bring something vegetarian to share if you are able, and let Jen Slater ([newenglandglow.rym@gmail.com](mailto:newenglandglow.rym@gmail.com)), Kate Carlisle ([kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org)) or Tom Reid ([revtom@npc-ma.org](mailto:revtom@npc-ma.org)) know if you have any questions.

**GBIO ONE TO ONES.** The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) is encouraging congregation members to engage in one to ones over the next three months. Covenant's GBIO team will be reaching out to set up one to one meetings. These can be in person or on zoom. You are also invited to think of someone you would like to get to know better and arrange a one to one. The potluck on April 27 would be a good time to have a one to one. Questions could include: What drew them to Covenant? What keeps them here? What keeps them awake at night? What experiences have made them who they are? What do they wish they could change?

**UPCOMING WORSHIP.** Please join us each Sunday at 10:30 am and during the special services listed below 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.](#)

- Thursday, April 17: Garden Walk, 5:30 pm (in person only)
- Friday, April 18: Good Friday Tenebrae Seven Last Words, 7:00 pm
- Sunday, April 20: Easter, Rev. Rob Mark preaching, Brass Quintet, Easter Egg Hunt After Worship
- Sunday, April 27: Rev. Kate Carlisle preaching

**SEEKING FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER FOR 4TH SATURDAY.** Did you know the church operates a weekend emergency food pantry for low-income folks in the basement of the church? We do! And we are looking for a regular volunteer to staff it on the fourth Saturday of each month. The hours are from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The work involves checking people into a computer, getting their signature, stocking the food, and making sure the people take the food they want. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Faith Perry at [flejpw@aol.com](mailto:flejpw@aol.com).

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS.** Our weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:45 on Zoom. We are studying the book of Genesis, reading the origin stories that shaped the lives and faith of ancient Jews and exploring their meaning for contemporary Christians. If you would like more information or want to be on the list to get regular reminders and Zoom details, contact Jack Ammerman at [jwacooks@gmail.com](mailto:jwacooks@gmail.com).

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS 6:00-6:30 pm. Note: There will be NO Evening Prayers during Holy Week, on April 16.** Join us for our weekly Wednesday evening prayers with intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms, and sharing of prayers with our siblings from Newton Presbyterian [on Zoom](#) (link on <http://www.cotcbos.org>).

**WEEKLY CALENDAR.** Click [here](http://www.cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events) ([cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events](http://www.cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events)) to view the weekly calendar of events.



*Visitor or 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 visitor's card in your pew, or email us at [info@cotcbos.org](mailto:info@cotcbos.org).

**Parking Bargain** – Worshippers may park at the Back Bay Garage [Clarendon Street, between Boylston and St. James] on Sundays between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm for the first three (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!

**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 restrooms. Please ask an usher to help you locate these resources.



**NEW TO COTC?** We are so glad you are 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 [cotchos.org](http://cotchos.org). Note that your information goes only to our pastors and you will not be added to any email lists.



*Church of the Covenant is focused on following Jesus in our world through accompaniment,  
compassion, peace, joy and creative beauty.*

*We are passionate about hospitality, committed to justice, and wild about faith.*

*We embrace an embodied spirituality that is not afraid of questions.*

*We advocate for a just climate for our earth, liberation in our world,  
and equality in our neighborhoods.*

*We are a community where ALL are welcome and celebrated as beautiful reflections of God—  
all genders, all faiths, all orientations, all backgrounds, all abilities, all ages,  
all struggles, and all hopes. Come journey with us!*



**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 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 without regard to race, gender identity, age, physical/mental condition, or sexual orientation. We rejoice in the presence of children among us as integral to our community. We maintain vital 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 our Commonwealth and both denominations to join couples of any sexual orientation in fully legal and holy marriage.

Covenant's sanctuary resides on the ancestral and unceded lands and waterways of the Massachusetts people. We lament the pain of displacement, honor the ongoing work of repair, and give thanks for all past, present and future stewards of this sacred place.

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 Lawrence Lazard, *Associate Pastor*

Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*

Bill Brown, *Building Manager*

Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator*

Nancy Stockford, *Parish Administrator/Financial Secretary*

Jesús Vargas, *Sexton*

Alan Lane, *Food Cupboard Coordinator*

Venkatesh Balasubramanian, *Sound Engineering & Audio Visual Tech Manager*

Soyoung Cho, *Childcare Provider*

**CHURCH OFFICERS**

Brian Bigler, *President of the Corporation*

Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*

Anita Gram, *Moderator of the Board of Deacons*

Faith Perry, *Treasurer*