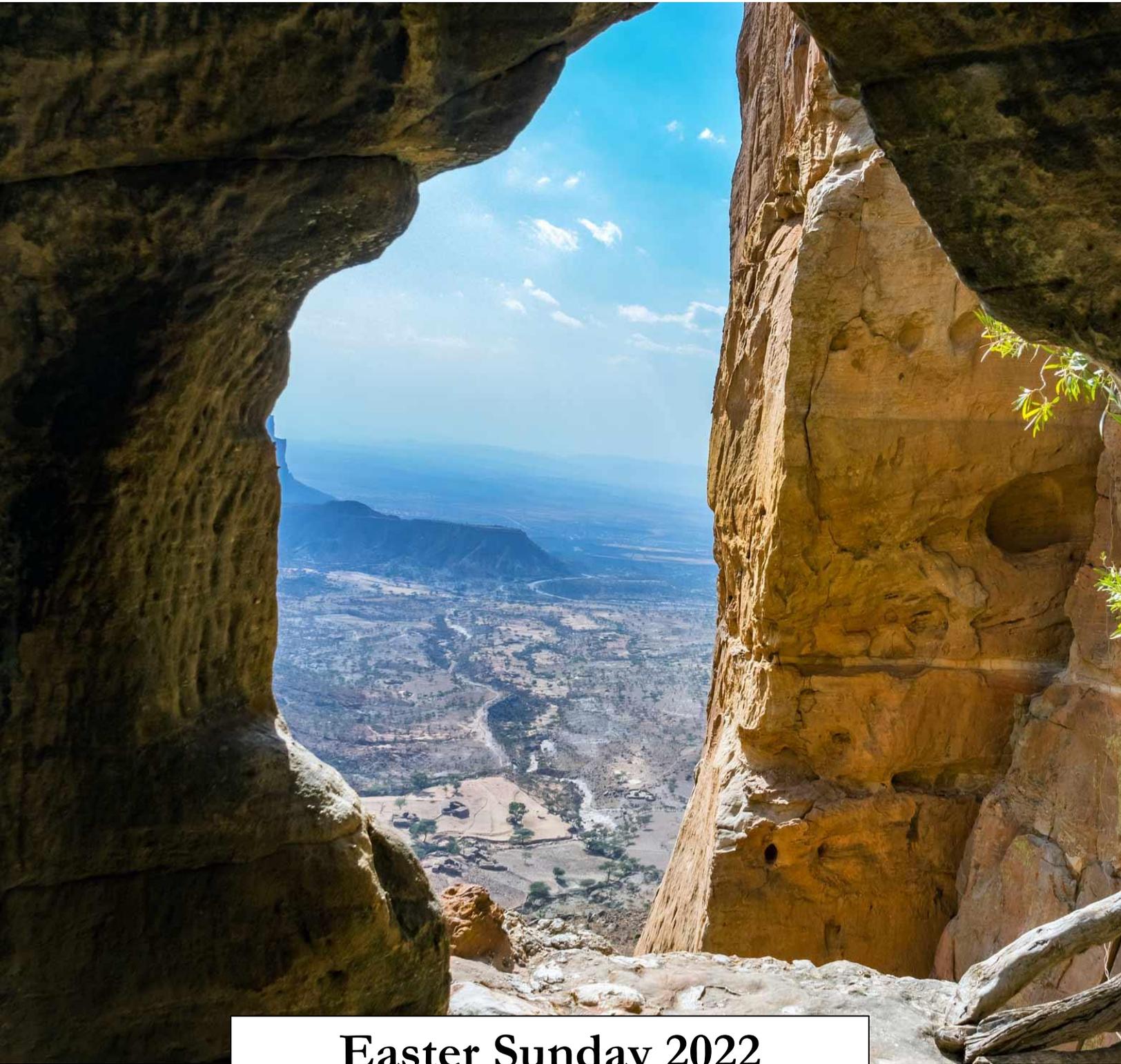


Church of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ



Easter Sunday 2022

Grotto: Reside & Resist

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



Church of the Covenant, Boston MA

April 17, 2022, 10:30 am

Easter Sunday / Grotto: Reside & Resist

[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 begin on Zoom at the above link. Please keep your mic muted during the service. The full service is recorded and later posted online.

Red Book is Back! If you would like a prayer of Celebration or Concern to be prayed aloud today, please take a moment to write it into the Red Book at the back of the sanctuary. You may do so at anytime. For those online, please feel free to place a prayer in the chat and we will share aloud.

Prelude

Amazing Grace

arr. Jari Villanueva

Welcome, *Breathe* & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Call to Worship

One: Like the sun that daily reminds us night gives way to dawn,

Many: **Let us rise!**

One: From the depths of despair, from our grottos of refuge,

Many: **Let us rise!**

One: From cynicism, isolation, self-doubt, and fear,

Many: **Let us rise!**

One: For today we hear the truth of hope for all of creation,

Many: **Life emerges from chaos.**

One: Today we celebrate the mystery of vitality and resistance,

Many: **Life emerges from chaos.**

One: Today we confess the radical refrain that Christ is Risen!

Many: **Life emerges from chaos. As we reside and resist, let us celebrate: Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

*Kindling the Christ Light

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: O Loving, Sacred, Grotto Making God – we have journeyed this Lent residing with you. We have sought to be still and find you in each holy breath. But our world still has too few sacred, safe spaces while too much pain and chaos encircle. We lament our complicity in its unjust systems that privilege only some. We grieve our complacency in the face of a hurting earth's climate. And we long for a whole new way forward. May we rise up with you and resist the forces of greed, empire, violence and fear. And may we, as People of the Empty Tomb, join you at the threshold of a new beginning once again.

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Christ is Risen! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty. And today our hearts are found filled. Filled with the very Breath of God. Filled with new life and new hope. Therefore, let us celebrate:

perplexed about this, suddenly two people in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the pair said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here, but has risen. Remember how Jesus told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Child of Humanity must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered Jesus’ words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to the apostles an idle tale – as nonsense – and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

Sung Response:



Easter Celtic Alleluia

Sermon

Crossing the Threshold

Sung Response:

Easter Celtic Alleluia

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory Hymn: *Psalm 100* arr. Vaughan Williams

See insert. While seated, the congregation is invited to sing verses 1,2 & 5.

Many: Sing to the Lord who is our God,
Whose faithfulness and love we laud.
Give thanks, creation in God’s name,
Fill all the earth with joyful praise!

Many: Praise God with joy and hear her call,
To us who wander, fail and fall.
Bless Jesus Christ who lived the truth,
God’s peace can reign in me and you.

Choir Only: Let orange maples start the song,
Hills, valleys, oceans sing along.
Dogs, cats and rabbits join the tune!
All beings thank our God triune.

Choir Only: We gather to God's house in song
to serve and worship and to love.
Come, all God's children gather here
and raise your voices loud and clear.

Many: To God, we praise thee with our song.
To Christ, our shepherd we belong.
To you, the spirit, faithful dove;
To all the world let there be love! Amen!

Prayer of Dedication

Blessing of the Marathon Athletes

Blessing Hymn: PH (blue) 354

Guide My Feet

1. Guide my feet, while I run this race (x3)
For I don't want to run this race in vain
2. I'm your child, while I run this race (x3)
For I don't want to run this race in vain

Celebrations and Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

Calls to Resist: Climate Jubilee, Immigration Justice, Housing Justice, Voting Rights, Transgender Rights, Decarceration...*and what else?*

- 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.
- Please support Licenses For All. Senate President Karen E. Spilka is the one to decide when the Senate is going to vote on the Work and Family

Mobility Act (S. 2289). She supports the law and has said she will schedule the vote this month, but there is no date yet. Please call Senator Spilka's office at 617-766-0206 or email her at karen.spilka@masenate.gov to urge her to bring the bill to a vote ASAP.

- Advocate for Senate Bill 2612 "Everybody Needs ID". Read & Act.
- Call/email your 2 Senators, thank them and ask them to prioritize pushing for the passage of the Equality Act.
- Prison Construction Moratorium: We're at a critical moment in our fight to pass the Jail and Prison Construction Moratorium Bill. The House version of the Moratorium Bill is stuck in the Judiciary Committee and has to be voted out by April 15. We're continuing to push for the Senate Bill to get to a floor vote! Call Chairman Day in support of the Prison Construction Moratorium Bill! Rep. Michael Day 617-722-2396, Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary: Sample script:
"Hi, my name is _____ and I am a member of Boston's Church of the Covenant, and I'm calling in support of An Act Establishing A Jail & Prison Construction Moratorium. I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee & shift spending to what communities really need to thrive—housing, treatment, healthcare & education!"

***Hymn:** PH (blue) 104

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, See a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding, Bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits, From the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, Not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven, Never-more shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation, Where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!

***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.**

Postlude

Spirit Be Joyful

J. S. Bach; arr. Harry Herforth

Please proceed outside to the steps for our time of greeting.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS TODAY are dedicated to the Glory of God and given by Deacons to those in the Covenant community who have lost a loved one in the last year.

Participating in Worship:

Preacher – Rev. Rob Mark

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Liturgist – Rev. Joshua Lazard

Lector – Nancy Hollomon

Redline Brass:

Kyle Spraker - trumpet

Andrew Moreschi - trumpet

Nick Rubenstein - horn

Robert Hoveland- tenor trombone

Levi Schmitt - bass trombone

Guest Conductor – Nicolas Ayala-Ceron

Digital Minister – Trudi Veldman

Audio-Video Tech Deacons – Derek Holbrook, Jon Schwarz

Door Steward – Jesús Vargas

Sexton – Fred Lopes

Ushers – Holly Humphreys, Denice Thornhill

Call to Resist – Rev. Rob Mark

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.

OUR BRASS MUSIC TODAY is offered in celebration of the life of Ed Cutler (May, 1935 –September, 2006). Ed was a beloved member of Church of the Covenant with a passion for music. In his youth he sang and played the violin. Before he lost his vision he sang in community and church choirs. He was a biology professor, avid “birder,” and environmentalist who served on many local environmental committees. At COTC, he served on the Personnel Committee, supported youth group pilgrimages, and chaired the committee that called Minister of Music Tom Handel.

OFFERTORY HYMN: Psalm 100 is a standard arrangement of the Old Hundredth Psalm Tune arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams. While the text, too, is classic, the language and theology do not match the language and theology typically heard at Church of the Covenant. Rather than meddling with the original poetry, members of the Covenant choir looked to Psalm 100 for inspiration. The resulting 5 verses were written in the fall of 2016 in celebration of Church of the Covenant's 150th anniversary.

EASTER EGG HUNT: Welcome to all beloved kiddos who are with us on this sacred day! Please stick around just after worship as we will have an easter egg hunt – directions to be announced.

LENT 2022: GROTTTO – 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.

SHARE YOUR GROTTTO: If you created a spiritual grotto this Lent, consider taking a photo of it, and sending to Rev. Rob in an email as he would love to see visuals on some of the sacred places that came to life this Lent.

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.

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.](#)

- Easter 4/17 10:30am
- Sunday, April 24, Rev. Joshua preaching (Rev. Rob away): ZOOM ONLY
- Sunday, May 1, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion

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!

ZOOM ONLY WORSHIP APRIL 24: Occasionally, we will hold worship on Zoom only to emphasize the radical equality of our community that is scattered geographically and limited in its ability to gather in-person. Our next Zoom only service will be Sunday, April 24, 10:30am. Please note, there will be no in-person option that Sunday.

CLIMATE JUBILEE ACTION!: Covenant's Climate Jubilee Team urges you to take part in "Great Tide Rising: Earth Day at the Compressor" on Saturday, April 23, from 10 AM to 1 PM. As a congregation we have strongly opposed the unjust, polluting compressor station in Weymouth, MA, and this will be a chance for a protest, rally, and community gathering. The address is 50 Bridge Street in North Weymouth, the site of the compressor. Please let Barbara know at barbarakdarling@yahoo.com if you can come – I hope you can! You can visit www.NoCompressor.com for more details.

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>

OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH ARE BACK IN THE BUILDING! BATES HALL FOR CYCE ONLY PLEASE: We are so grateful our Children & Youth Christian Education programs are, after 2 years, finally back to safely gathering on

Sunday mornings in Bates Hall & the nurse! **We therefore ask all adults not connected to CYCE to refrain from using Bates Hall on Sundays**, as per our policies set before the pandemic. The one exception is our Choir that regularly rehearses in Bates Hall from 9:30-10:00am. The two all-gender bathrooms for use are on the same floor as the sanctuary, and will remain open and available during the service. One is located near the elevator, one just outside the “secret door” in the sanctuary, just past the baptismal font).

LENTEN EVENING PRAYERS 6-6:30pm: Join us for our weekly Wednesday evening prayers w/ intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms & sharing of prayers with our siblings from Newton Presbyterian [on Zoom](#).

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS: Our weekly morning Bible Study is each Wednesday morning on Zoom at 9:15am. We are studying the Gospel of John. If you'd like more information or want to be on the list to get regular reminders & Zoom info, contact Jan Gough at revjangough@gmail.com.

COVENANT BOOK DISCUSSION SUNDAY, APRIL 24: Our next book discussion will be Sunday, April 24 at 5 PM over Zoom, and we'll be discussing Rowan Williams' *Where God Happens: Discovering Christ in One Another*. The Zoom link will be sent out later. As always, you are very welcome whether you've ever attended book group before, or whether you have read the book.

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 in April in-person, most likely Sat. April 23. If you have more questions or would like to be on our email list, email Rev. Joshua at joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING: We have a vibrant program for children and youth, please [email Rev. Kate](#) if you'd like to join us!

POSTING FULL SERVICE RECORDINGS/ CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS ONLINE: 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. Thanks.

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



Church of the Covenant
Boston Massachusetts

67 Newbury St., Boston MA 02116 | (617) 266-7480 | 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*