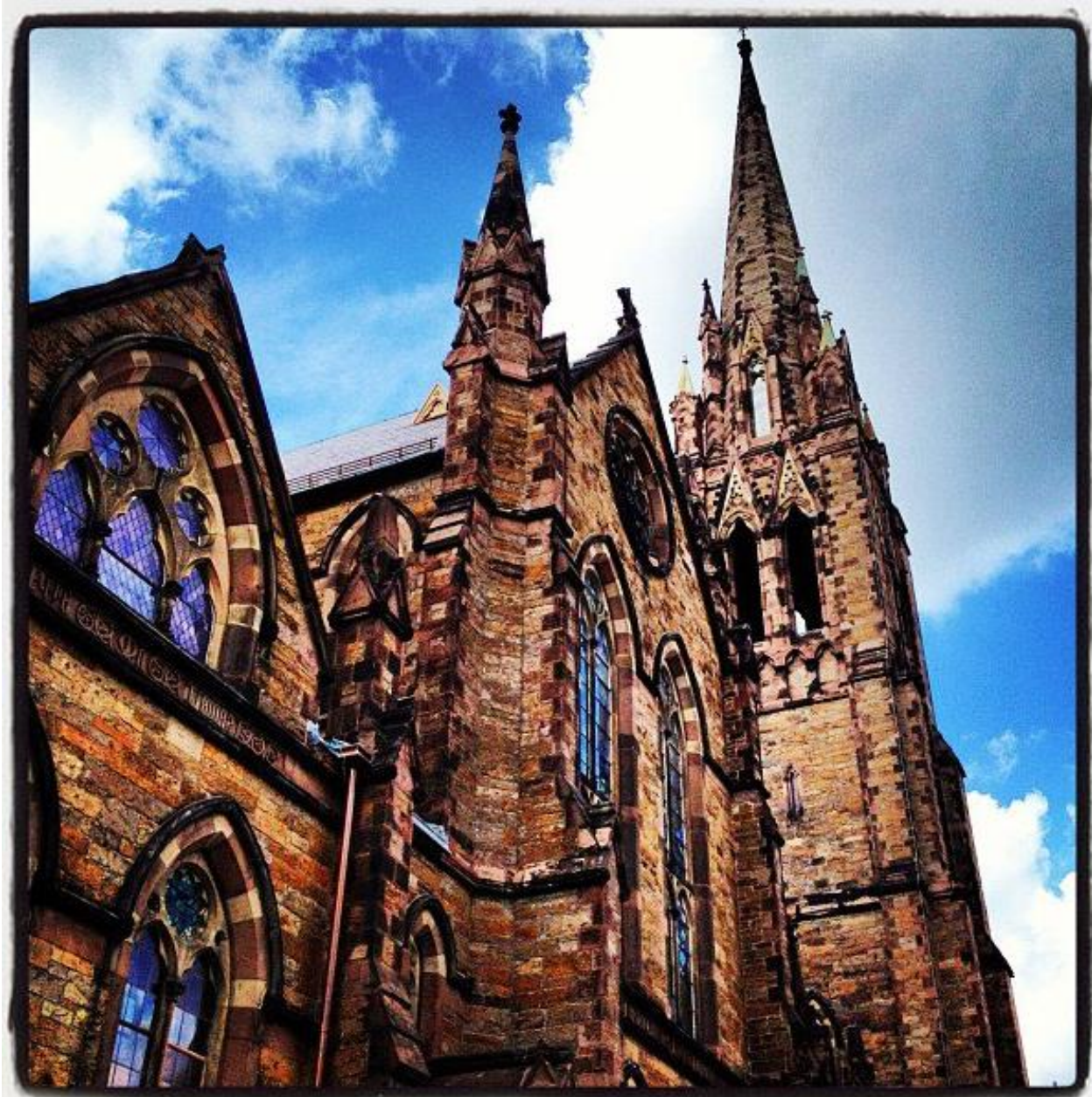


# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



## The Third Sunday of Easter

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

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



**Church of the Covenant**  
May 1, 2022, 10:30 am  
The Third Sunday of Easter  
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 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, and would prefer not to share it yourself with the handheld mic, please take a moment at anytime to write it into the Red Book at the back of the sanctuary. For those online, you will be invited to place a prayer in the chat and we will share aloud.

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

### Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.  
Many: **And also with you.**  
One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
Many: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### Prelude

*Pastoral*

Josef Rheinberger

### \*Call to Worship

*Psalm 30*

One: I will extol you, O God, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.  
Many: **O God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**

One: O God, you brought up my soul from Sheol,  
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.  
Many: **Sing praises to God, O you God’s faithful ones, and give thanks to God’s holy name.**

One: For God’s anger is but for a moment; God’s favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.  
Many: **Hear, O GOD, and be gracious to me! O GOD, be my helper!**

One: You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,  
Many: **So that my soul may praise you and not be silent.**  
**O my God, I will give thanks to you forever.**

**\*Kindling the Christ Light**

**\*Opening Hymn:** PH (blue) 464

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing foundation,  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus  
Which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us,  
Joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

## Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

**Many:** O God, we confess we are set in our ways. We cling to the old, the tried and true, the comfortable. We like it that way, because in the old we have found you. But Living God, you are also in the new. You shatter our preconceptions and shake our beliefs. You are alive and you call us to new life, to carry with us the best of the old and to take up the challenge of the new. Forgive our hesitation; forgive our inaction; lead us to a new and living faith.

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

## Listening to God in Silent Prayer

### Assurance of God's Grace

**One:** Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter. Christ comes into the shamed places of our faults, and gifts us with grace and hope. Christ comes, to fill us with peace, that we may proclaim the good news of liberation. Therefore, let us celebrate:

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

### Sung Response:

*Easter Celtic Alleluia*

Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!

## Reading from Scripture: Gospel Reading: John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Holy One!" When Simon Peter heard that it was Jesus, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was their Teacher. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon child of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Rabbi; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon child of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Rabbi; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon child of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Teacher, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, & someone else will fasten a belt around you & take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

One: God is still speaking, the word of God,

Many: **Thanks be to God.**



## Will You Come and Follow Me

*Unison*

1. Will you come and fol - low Me if I but call your name?  
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?  
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when You but call my name.

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low You and nev - er be the same.

Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be known,  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,  
 In Your com - pa - ny I'll go where Your love and foot - steps show.

will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?  
 Will you let Me an - swer prayer in you and you in Me?  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?  
 through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

WORDS: John L. Bell and Graham A. Maule, 1987

MUSIC: Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1987

KELVINGROVE

7.6.7.6.7.7.6

Words &amp; Music © 1987 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent

## Call to Offering

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

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

## Offertory

*Intermezzo*

Josef Rheinberger

## 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 Empty Tomb, 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**Breaking of the Bread**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**\*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

**Preacher** – Rev. Rob Mark

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Liturgist** – Rev. Joshua Lazard

**Lector** – Betsy Groves

**Communion Server** – Kathryn Barry

**Digital Minister** – Trudi Veldman

**Cantors** – COTC Choir

**Audio-Video Tech Deacon** – Jon Schwarz

**Door Steward** – Jesús Vargas

**Sexton** – Fred Lopes

**Usher** – Denice Thornhill

**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.

**“COFFEE 15-20 MINUTE” BREAK OUT ROOMS:** Today following the passing of peace time, for those online, we will break out into Zoom groups for some informal sharing/ fellowship. If you'd like not to be randomly assigned into a group, please just log off when invited to do so following the passing of the peace.

**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, May 1, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion
- Sunday, May 8, Loving Our Mothers
- Sunday, May 15, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
- Sunday, May 22, Rev. Rob preaching
- Sunday, May 29 – **ZOOM ONLY**, Memorial Day Weekend
- Sunday, June 5, Pentecost All Ages Service

**EXIT CLOSURE:** Please note the Copley Square exit off Mass Pike is closed until June. Plan accordingly or take public transportation as/if possible.

**WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE COMMUNITY GARDEN:** In the spirit of Climate Jubilee, we are very excited to help support a mutual effort between COTC and WLP to birth some raised bed garden boxes on our Berkeley Street side. Please read this and consider signing to support this new effort:

<https://forms.gle/btCbbfKpyU3QSyME6>

**“COTC 101” NEW MEMBERS CLASS MAY 15:** Are you new-ish to Church of the Covenant and want to find out more about who we are, our history, our two denominations, our 5-point missional plan we feel called by God to live out through 2025, and what it means to join in membership? Then please join us after worship on Sunday, May 15 for an hour or so in person and on Zoom while we cover some of these topics together. Please RSVP to Rob at [rob.mark@cotcbos.org](mailto:rob.mark@cotcbos.org)

**JUBILEE JAUNTS:** As Spring is upon us again, our Climate Jubilee Team has also brought our Jubilee Jaunts back! Let’s get out into the beauty of God’s natural world in the gift of our watershed as it is now, and find peace and blessing from it. Mark your calendars now for these simple jaunts for an hour or two together in community being blessed by Creation.

- Sunday May 22, 1:30pm Franklin Park with Betty Southwick
- Sunday June 26, 1:30pm Arboretum with Nancy Stockford & Mark Huston
- Sunday July 25, 1:30pm Middlesex Fells with Holly Humphreys
- *Want to add a jaunt?? Email [Betty](#) and we’ll add it to the list!*

**CONTRIBUTING TO UKRAINE RELIEF:** All of us are heart-broken by the devastation and violence in Ukraine. You may have donated through the websites mentioned in the bulletin below in previous weeks. Covenant's Mission and Advocacy Committee has contributed to relief to Ukrainian refugees fleeing to Poland - as of now, over half a million, most of them children -- through First Church in Marlborough (Congregational), which has been asked by the Southern New England Conference of the UCC to coordinate contributions:

<https://www.sneucc.org/newsdetail/getting-aid-to-ukraine-16383498>

Mission and Advocacy encourages you to consider contributing to this effort. You can write a check to "First Church in Marlborough" and put "Ukraine Relief" in the memo line. The address is 37 High Street, Marlborough Ma 01752. You can also donate directly online with this [donation option](#). Just put "Ukraine relief" in the memo line.

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 other 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>

**THANK SENATOR McMORROW:** *Kay Carleton has passed this important advocacy along to us:* This week, a Michigan state senator falsely accused one of her Democratic colleagues of being a groomer who sexualizes young children, all because she supports LGBTQ rights & equality. State Senator Mallory McMorrow's response on the state senate floor was prophetic. She spoke with conviction, shared her personal story including her Christian faith, called out Theis for practicing performative Christianity, and called on other Christians to also stand against hatred. While we admire her courage, we also lament the continued silencing of LGBTQ voices in too many halls of decision making. The attacks on Sen. McMorrow are part of the escalating wave of bigotry, fearmongering, and legislation against trans people and the whole LGBTQ+ community. Faithful America asks us to show McMorrow some support and solidarity for speaking out in rejecting the religious right's hatred. [Will you visit this link](#) to watch the video and sign this thank-you letter? We also encourage you to consider contacting your state and national representatives and the White House, identifying yourself as a Christian in support of LGBTQ equality, and commending Sen. McMorrow's speech and asking for similarly outspoken and courageous responses and legislative and executive action to protect LGBTQ lives.

**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](mailto:revjangough@gmail.com).

**EASTER 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](#).

**CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** We have a vibrant program for children and youth, meeting during in-person worship. We send out updates regularly via email, so please [email Rev. Kate](#) if you'd like to know more!

**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.

**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](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*