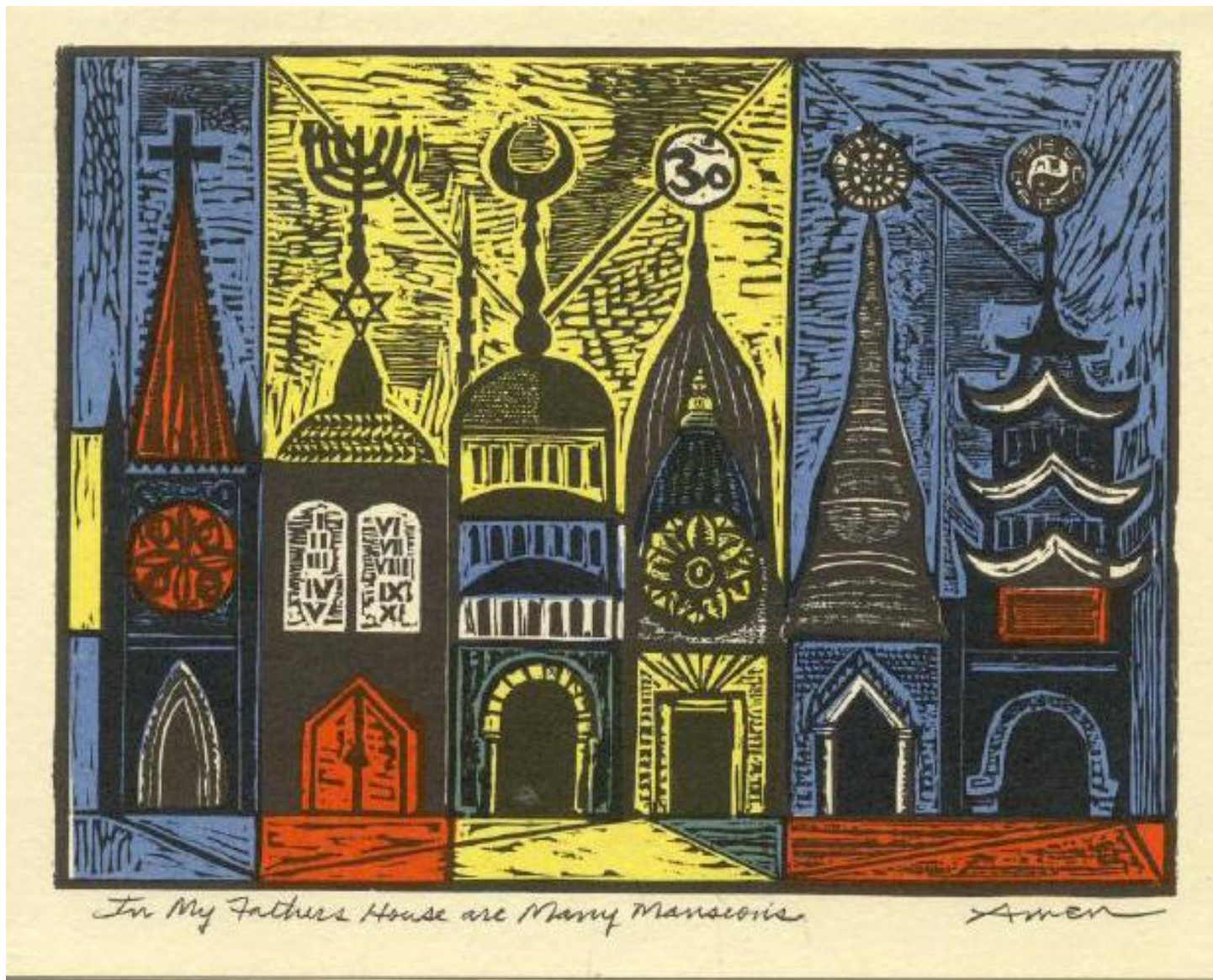


Church of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ



Woodcut contributed by Irving Amen

Proceeds from these cards further the interracial work of the
Congress of Racial Equality (CORE),
200 West 135th Street, New York, New York 10030

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023



Church of the Covenant, Boston MA

May 7, 2023, 10:30 am
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Celebration of Communion
[Zoom Link](#)

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 above link. Please keep your mic muted during the service. The full service is recorded and later posted online.

For those joining online, we will celebrate communion so you are invited to gather a plate and a cup.

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## Prelude

*The Nest in Old North Church*

Ned Rorem

## Welcome & 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

*From Psalm 31*

One: In you, O God, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your justice deliver me.

Many: **Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.**

**Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to liberate me.**

One: For your name’s sake lead me and guide me,

Many: **Take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my  
refuge.**

One: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Holy  
and faithful God.

Many: **You have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;  
you have set my feet in a broad place.**

One: My times are in your hand;

Many: **Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your  
steadfast love.**

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\* You are invited to rise in body or spirit. NCH = black New Century Hymnal

## \* 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:** Love Divine, we reveal to you and each other that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. We repent also of the structural sins all around us that we are complicit in, even

when not fully aware. For the sake of your Child Jesus Christ, shower compassion on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

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

## Listening to God in Silent Prayer

### Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, hear again the Good News: there are no structures, there are no forces, there is no evil out there or within that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. We are all crafted in the very image of God, and in Christ liberated and made new. Therefore, let us celebrate together:

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

### \* Sung Response

*Easter Celtic Alleluia*

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the 'Easter Celtic Alleluia'. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes. Chord symbols (G, D, C) are placed above the notes to indicate accompaniment. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

### Scripture Readings:

#### Reading from the New Testament – Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Child of Humanity standing at the

right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

### **Gospel Reading** – John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Creator’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to God except through me. If you know me, you will know my Creator also. From now on you do know God and have seen God.”

Philip said to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Creator, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Creator. How can you say, ‘Show us the Creator’? Do you not believe that I am in the Creator and the Creator is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Creator who dwells in me does her works. Believe me that I am in the Creator and the Creator is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Creator. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Creator may be glorified in the Child. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

**Sung Response**

*Easter Celtic Alleluia*

**Sermon**

*Room to Move*

**Moment for Generosity:** “Gabbing on Giving”, with Jon Schwarz and Brad Day

## **Call to Offering**

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

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

## **Offertory**

*All Good Gifts (Godspell)*

Stephen Schwartz

## **\* 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**

*(interpreted by Parker Palmer)*

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,  
Holy and blessed is your true name.  
We pray for your reign of peace to come,  
We pray that your good will be done,  
Let heaven and earth become one.  
Give us this day the bread we need, Give it to those who have none.  
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,  
From each one to each one.  
Lead us to holy innocence  
Beyond the evil of our days —  
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.  
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:  
Forever your name is All in One. AMEN.**

*Please be seated.*

**Breaking of the Bread**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Post Communion Prayer**

1. Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in endless praise, let them flow in endless praise.

2. Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

4. Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

\* **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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*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!*



## Participating in Worship:

**Preacher** – Rev. Rob Mark

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Covenant Choir**

**Liturgist** – Barbara Darling

**Lector** – TBD

**Moment for Generosity** – Jon Schwarz and Brad Day

**Communion Servers** – Anita Gram, Sally Pomeroy

**Digital Minister** – Diane Lauber

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

**Sexton** – Jesús Vargas

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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.



CLIMATE JUBILEE ADULT ED: Join us today following worship for an adult ed on how you can reduce your carbon footprint, reduce your reliance on fossil fuels, and make your kitchen a safer and healthier place to cook and breathe in as we zoom in on Induction Stoves. **All those who attend will have a chance to join in a free raffle to win an Induction Stove Top!!!**

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 7, Season of Generosity #1, Communion, Rev. Rob preaching
- Sunday May 14, Season of Generosity #2, Rev. Joshua preaching
- Sunday May 21, Season of Generosity #3, Guest Preacher Rev. Nikita McCalister

UPCOMING ADULT ED SESSIONS POST WORSHIP.

- Sunday May 7, Climate Jubilee Induction Stoves & Reducing Footprints
- Sunday May 21, End of Life Planning, Estates & Wills with Kathryn Barry
- Sunday July 16, Climate Jubilee All Church Read – *Cathedral on Fire*

CLIMATE JUBILEE ALL-CHURCH READ. Covenant's Climate Jubilee Team is hosting another Zoom all-church book discussion after worship on Sunday, July 16. We've bought a bunch of copies of *Cathedral on Fire*, by the Rev. Brooks Berndt (Minister of Environmental Justice for the UCC). See Barbara Darling for your own free copy of the book!

SEASON OF GENEROSITY. Join us in worship for the first three weeks in May as our Generosity Generators help us celebrate the spirit of generosity in our lives and in our life together as a community of faith. Our first installment of this series will feature a live “Gabbing on Giving” between two incredible COTC-ers on May 7 – this one is NOT to be missed!!

MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE MAY 14. Please join Church of the Covenant's team for the Mother's Day Walk for Peace. You may want to watch this short video about why people walk ([youtube.com/watch?v=2g6J85VAToM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2g6J85VAToM)) or look at the Louis D Brown Peace Institute's webpage: ldbpeaceinstitute.org. Find our team page: mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/175583/Church-of-the-Covenant for you to sign up or donate. Contact Diane Lauber (dianelauber@comcast.net) or 978-376-6574 about walking that day! Thank you!

GREENFAITH'S NO FAITH IN FOSSIL FUELS: A CLIMATE FINANCE SUMMIT MAY 8-11. Climate destruction is being bankrolled by large corporations and their executives who choose to act against what is right and good, at the expense of our planet's future. The climate crisis is a crisis of greed. From May 8-11, people of faith will gather to learn about how banks and asset managers continue to invest in the fossil fuel industries that are destroying communities in the U.S. and around the world – and learn how to hold these financial institutions accountable. Together, we can commit to taking the bold steps necessary to effect real change. This summit is for you if you're just making the connections between faith, finance, and climate, if you're a money manager rooted in just climate values, or if you are part of a community wrestling with these questions. Register even if you can't attend live; all registrants will receive recordings and a pack full of eco-spiritual and educational resources. RSVP HERE: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/no-faith-in-fossil-fuels-a-climate-finance-summit/>

CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING: We have a vibrant program for children and youth, including nursery care and Christian formation opportunities for children and youth during worship. Children and youth are welcome to remain in worship, or to join us downstairs – ask an usher for directions! If you’d like to learn more, please email Rev. Kate at kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org.

LIFE ALIVE MINISTRY. This group of 20s, 30s, and 40s meets monthly for fellowship and community. Our next gathering will be for a small brunch in May; date TBA. Want to know more? Email Rev. Joshua at joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org.

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.

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.

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.

KAY OLM’S MEMORIAL SERVICE. Will be held on June 4, 2pm in Bend, Oregon, and will be livestreamed. For link, email johannathomas@gmail.com

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.

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

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 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*
Jesús Vargas *Sunday Sexton*
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*