

# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



## The Fifth Sunday of Easter

### Holy Communion

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

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



**Church of the Covenant**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Holy Communion Sunday**

May 15, 2022, 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 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**

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. David Hamilton

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Jesus reminded the disciples

Many: **Love one another as I have loved you.**

One: Jesus taught and witnessed to God’s love

Many: **Love one another as I have loved you.**

One: Jesus encourages us to love each other with tenderness, compassion, and hope.

Many: **Let us love one another as Christ loved us. Amen.**

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

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found  
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear, true charity we learn,  
Let us with hearty mind and strength, now love Christ in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults, as we our faults confess,  
And let us love each other well, in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease,  
Be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours Christ's holy peace.

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

**Patient God, sometimes we are just too busy for our own good. We pledge ourselves to hectic schedules, demands on time, energy, and resources that erode all too quickly. We seem to be rushing through life. The cries of those in need often go unheeded in our blur of activities which sap our energy, our resources, our spirits. Slow us down a bit, O God. Remind us again that we are responsible for the care of this world, for reaching out and offering your healing love. Teach us to hear the words of patient love that you have for us. Remind us again of Jesus' words to his disciples when he told them that they should love one another as he loved them. May we take time to bear witness to that love in all that we do. For we ask this in the name of the Resurrected Christ, Amen.**

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

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

**One:** Wherever you are, Christ is with you. You are beloved of God and God's care will always surround you. Be at peace and rejoice!  
Therefore let us celebrate:

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

## Sung Response:

*Easter Celtic Alleluia*

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a sung response. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together. Chord symbols (G, D, C) are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!" repeated on both staves.

## Readings from Scripture

**Hebrew Bible:** Isaiah 28:16-17

Therefore, thus says the Holy God,  
See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone,  
a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation:  
‘One who trusts will not panic.’  
And I will make justice the line,  
and righteousness the plumb line  
hail will sweep away the refuge of lies,  
and waters will overwhelm the shelter.

**Reading from the Gospel:** John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Child of Humanity has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in Godself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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

## Sung Response

*Easter Celtic Alleluia*

## Sermon

*Discovering Unturned Stones*

**\*Hymn:** NCH 517

*I Need You Every Hour*

Robert Lowry

### *Verse 1*

I need you every hour, O God of grace;  
The peace your voice affords, I now embrace

### Refrain

I Need you, how I need you! Every hour I need you;  
O bless me now my Savior, I come to you.

### *Verse 2*

I need you every hour, in faith or fear;  
Temptations lose their power when you are near

### *Verse 3*

I need you every hour, in joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide or life is vain.

### *Verse 4*

I need you every hour, teach me your will,  
And your rich promises in me fulfill.

## Call to Offering

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

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

## Offertory

*Guide My Feet*  
Anita Gram, violin

arr. Jaqueline Hairston

## **\*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 God, 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...

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you O God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we

turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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!**

### **The Prayer of Jesus**

(prayed in unison)

*Steve Caruso, translation from Aramaic*

**O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration. Soften the ground of our being and carve out a space within us where your Presence can abide.**

**Fill us with your creativity so that we may be empowered to bear the fruit of your mission.**

**Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with our desire.**

**Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share what each being needs to grow and flourish.**

**Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us, as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.**

**Do not let us be seduced by that which would divert us from our true purpose, but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.**

**For you are the ground and the fruitful vision, the birth, power and fulfillment, as all is gathered and made whole once again.**

### **The 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. Joshua Lawrence

Lazard

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Liturgist** – Rev. Rob Mark

**Lector** – Maria Arruda

**Communion Servers** – Jon Schwarz,

Debbie Howland

**Cantors** – COTC Choir

**Audio-Video Tech Deacons** – Jon

Schwarz, Abhishek John

**Door Steward** – Jesús Vargas

**Sexton** – Fred Lopes

**Usher** – Trudi Veldman

**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.

**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 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, Communion

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

**LIFE ALIVE BRUNCH TODAY:** Our 20s30s40s group, now known as Life Alive, will be having brunch together after worship today, May 15, immediately following service at DIG restaurant at 557 Boylston St. More details to come via email; contact [joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org) with questions.

**TODAY!: ELECTRIC CARS – WHAT’S THE BUZZ, TELL ME WHAT’S HAPPENING:** Join us this Sunday, May 15 following worship as our Climate Jubilee Team holds a hybrid adult ed session on Electric Cars: "What Questions Do You Have About Electric Cars?" Join Covenant members Betty, Tim, Betsy, Mark and Nancy to hear about their experiences and ask any question you want! Join us on the SAME Zoom link for morning worship, or remain in the sanctuary to join us in-person with masks on.

**CYCE UPDATES:** We continue to offer weekly Christian Education opportunities for children and youth ages 5 and up, when COTC worship meets in person. We’ve also reopened the nursery for young ones under 5! Some upcoming highlights include a multiage art project today, and our next All Ages Worship on Pentecost, June 5. Please remember that Bates Hall is for CYCE use only during and following worship, so we ask adults who aren’t connected with CYCE to use the restrooms on this floor. If you are a visitor with little ones, we would welcome you to come downstairs and learn more (find the stairs down to Bates Hall at the back of the sanctuary). We send the latest info on CYCE activities via email, so if you want to receive those updates, contact [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org).

**“COTC 101” NEW MEMBERS CLASS UPDATE (NEW DATE & TIME) TUESDAY MAY 31, 6pm on Zoom ([registration link](#)):** 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 on Tuesday, May 31, 6pm for an hour or so on Zoom while we cover some of these topics together. [Please register here](#) or email Rob at [rob.mark@cotcbos.org](mailto:rob.mark@cotcbos.org)

**COVENANT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP JUNE 12:** The next Church of the Covenant book discussion will take place on Sunday, June 12, at 5 PM via Zoom. (Link will be sent as the date grows closer.) We will be discussing *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. As always, you are welcome to join us whether or not you have ever come to a Covenant book discussion before, and whether or not you have read the book. Ask Barbara if you have any questions: [barbarakdarling@yahoo.com](mailto:barbarakdarling@yahoo.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](#).

**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.

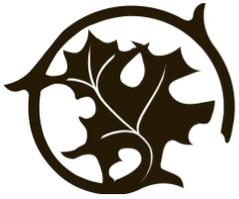
As we continue to hold the people of Ukraine and Russia in our prayers in light of Putin's horrifying "war of choice," here are some other places to support:

- 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>

**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).

**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*