

Church of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ



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May 19, 2024
Pentecost
All-Ages Worship



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May 19, 2024, 10:30 am [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 link above. Please keep your mic muted during the service. We will not be passing the microphone during Celebrations & Concerns today. If you have a particular prayer request, please write it in the Red Book or the Zoom chat.

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

Prelude

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

arr. Fred Bock

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**

One: It's Pentecost!

As we gather, we pray for the Spirit of God to come to us:

Many: Come, Holy Spirit!

One: Come, Spirit, like fire!

Light a spark of love in our hearts.

Put words of truth on our lips.

Many: Come, Holy Spirit!

One: Come, Spirit, like a roaring wind!

Clear away all of the injustice that harms God's children.

Many: Come, Holy Spirit!

One: Come, Spirit, like clean air,

like refreshing breeze, like a deep breath:

Many: Come, Holy Spirit!

*** Kindling the Christ Light**

One: The light of Christ

Many: Thanks be to God!

* Opening Hymn

God Welcomes All



God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we know She is here. The Spirit gives us comfort, and teaches us to care for one another. The Spirit gives us courage, and teaches us to tell the truth. The Spirit fills us up and makes us free. Children of God, beloved community, let us celebrate our liberation together:

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

* Sung Response PH (blue) 315

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Readings from Scripture

Hebrew Bible Reading – Psalm 104:24-30

(adapted from translation by Robert Alter)

How many Your deeds, O Adonai,

all of them You do in wisdom.

All the earth is filled with Your riches.

This sea great and wide,
where creatures beyond number stir,
the little beasts and the large.
There the ships go,
this Leviathan You fashioned to play with.
All of them look to You
to give them their food in its season.
When You give them, they gather it in,
when You open Your hand, they are sated with good.
When You hide Your face, they panic,
You withdraw their breath and they perish,
and to the dust they return.
When You send forth Your breath, they are created,
and You renew the face of the earth.

New Testament Reading – Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

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

Sung Response

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Pentecost Prayer Stations

Music During Prayer Stations

Sacred Fire

Sarah Class

Veni Sancte Spiritus

Taizé

Sung Response

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Moment for Mission & Call to Offering

*Today we collect our Special Pentecost Offering on behalf of our two denominations
to demonstrate the Holy Spirit’s power to transform the world and each of us.
To learn more about this Special Offering, see today’s announcements.*

Online Giving Option: www.cotcbos.org/give
Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General.

Offertory

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

adapted from William Dawson

* 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

Prayers of the People

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.**

* The Prayer of Jesus

(in unison)

We invite you to pray the Prayer of Jesus in whatever language and phrasing is closest to your heart.

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 NCH (black) 286

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain:

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.

Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1. You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep
And over the eons you called to each thing,
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” *Refrain*
2. You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
And you goaded your people with a law and a land;
When they were confounded by their idols and lies,
Then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. *Refrain*
3. You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
And down in the city you called once again,
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. *Refrain*
4. You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

* 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.**

Worship Participants

Worship Leaders – Rev. Kate Carlisle, Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Liturgist – Karen Henry

Lectors – Anne Crane, Mocky Day, Debbie Howland, Abhishek John, So Jung Kim, Thiago Santos, Trudi Veldman

Moment for Mission – Anne Crane

Covenant Choir

Usher – Holly Humphreys

Communion Servers – Barbara Darling, Karen Henry

Digital Minister – Trudi Veldman

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

Sexton – Jesús Vargas

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 our Digital Minister in the chat.

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 cotcbos.org.



LIFE ALIVE BRUNCH AFTER WORSHIP TODAY! Join the young adults (20s-30s-40s) after worship **today, May 19**, for brunch. If you are interested, please see Rev. Joshua.

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.](#)

- Sunday, May 26: Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard preaching
- Sunday, June 2: Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard preaching, Communion
- Sunday, June 9: Pride Weekend, Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard preaching

SPECIAL PENTECOST OFFERING TODAY! The annual Pentecost/Strengthen the Church Offering is collected by both of our parent denominations. The Presbyterian portion supports child advocacy, youth ministry, and Young Adult Volunteer opportunities. Congregations are encouraged to direct a portion of the offering to local programs that benefit children at risk. The United Church of Christ portion supports the development of new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities with a view to creating a just world for all. This year Covenant is again directing a portion of this offering to GreenRoots Chelsea, a grassroots organization that engages and empowers residents in Chelsea and East Boston in campaigns and projects to achieve environmental justice and improved public health and quality of life. GreenRoots, which makes a special effort to engage children and youth, works on a broad range of issues from food justice to climate resiliency and much more, impacting Greater Boston and beyond. To contribute, please use the envelope included with the bulletin or visit the COTC website (www.cotcbos.org/give).

COVENANT CABARET! Saturday, June 1, 7:00 pm. Come join us for this lively event with tasty refreshments and fun entertainment (music, poetry, storytelling, standup comedy, and whatever else YOU want to offer). If you are interested in performing, please contact Karen Henry (kams.henry@gmail.com). And please **save the date!** The Cabaret is a fundraiser to support our sibling relationship with the Church of the Poor in Dulce Nombre de Jesús, Nicaragua.

BOSTON PRIDE FOR THE PEOPLE ON JUNE 8. Join us to march in Boston's Pride for the People Parade on **Saturday, June 8.** Everyone is welcome! We'll be marching with folks from other churches in the Presbytery, and we hope to have a big Covenant group. Stay tuned for more info, and let Rev. Kate (kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org) know if you're interested in taking part or if you have any questions.

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC: SAVE THE DATE! Join us after worship on **Sunday, June 16,** in the Boston Public Garden to eat/share food, play games, and chat informally.

REV. ROB ON EXTENDED REFLECTION LEAVE. Lead Pastor Rob Mark is away until September 12, taking three months of Extended Reflection/Study Leave, along with some vacation and unpaid leave. Rev. Joshua is serving as full-time Lead Pastor during this time. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rev. Joshua (joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org).

LET'S CELEBRATE MARY ROBINSON TURNING 90 WHILE SUPPORTING THE RESTORATION OF THE MADONNA WINDOW!

Our beloved Mary Robinson will be turning 90 on August 21! She is hoping to use this major milestone to raise funds for Covenant's planned restoration of the Madonna window, due to start this summer. Mary is hoping YOU will participate by setting aside some amount (1 penny, 1 nickel, 1 dime, 1 quarter, 1 dollar, \$10 or more!) every day or every week starting on May 21 (90 days out), and then contribute the total amount saved by August 21 (the big birthday) to Covenant for the work on the Madonna window. Mary appreciates your participation! Please let Parish Administrator Nancy Stockford (nancy.stockford@cotcbos.org) know if you have any questions.

WELCOME CHILDREN & YOUTH!! We offer Christian education through Godly Play for ages 3-9, youth classes for ages 10-13 and 14+, and a nursery for the littlest ones. We welcome all children, youth, and families—those we know already and those who are here for the first time. 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 if you want to receive updates!

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS. Our weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:45 on Zoom. We are studying the Gospel of Mark. If you'd like more information or want to be on the list to get regular reminders and Zoom info, contact Jan Gough at revjangough@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS 6:00-6:30 pm. 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>).

VIDEO CAMERAS/POSTING FULL SERVICE RECORDINGS. To best serve our diverse community and new worshippers, we livestream and record each service, including Celebrations & Concerns. If you would prefer not to be in occasional camera shots, you are welcome to sit on the outside aisles on either side of the sanctuary. Recordings of each service are available on our [Worship Recordings Page](#) (cotcbos.org/worship-recordings).

WEEKLY CALENDAR. Click [here](http://cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events) (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. 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.

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 rest rooms. Please ask an usher to help you locate these resources.



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 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. Joshua Lawrence Lazard, *Lead Pastor (pro tem)*
Rev. Rob Mark, *Lead Pastor (on sabbatical)*
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, *Digital Communications & Audio Visual Tech Manager*

CHURCH OFFICERS

Kathryn Barry, *President of the Corporation*
Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*
Jon Schwarz, *Moderator of the Board of Deacons*
Faith Perry, *Treasurer*