

Church of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ



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Pentecost
All Ages Worship
May 28, 2023



Church of the Covenant, Boston MA

May 28, 2023, 10:30 am

Pentecost

[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.

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

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**Prelude**

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

arr. Fred Bock

## **Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

## **\*Call to Worship**

One: Holy Spirit, Creator, in the beginning you moved over the waters.  
From your breath all creation drew life. Without you, life turns to dust.

**Many: Come, Holy Spirit!**

One: Holy Spirit, Counselor, by your inspiration, the prophets spoke and acted in faith. You clothed them in power to be bearers of your liberating Word.

**Many: Come, Holy Spirit!**

One: Holy Spirit, Power, you came as fire to Jesus’ disciples; you gave them voice to speak truth before the powerful of this world.

**Many: Come, Holy Spirit!**

One: Holy Spirit, Sanctifier, you created us children of God; you make us living reflections of your divine image; you intercede within us with sighs too deep for words.

**Many: Come, Holy Spirit!**

One: Holy Spirit, Giver of life, you guide and make holy the church you create; you bring forth good fruit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – that the whole creation may be transformed.

**Many: Come, Holy Spirit!**

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

**\*Opening Hymn:** PH (blue) 129

*Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us, come with Pentecostal power;  
Give the church a stronger vision, help us face each crucial hour.  
Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,  
Still the church is called to mission that God's love shall be made known.

We would raise our alleluias for the grace of yesteryears;  
For tomorrow's unknown pathway, hear, O Lord, our humble prayers.  
In the church's pilgrim journey You have led us all the way,  
Still in presence move before us, fire by night and cloud by day.

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of fire and flame.  
Help our feeble lips to praise You, glorify Your holy name.  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in one: what mystery!  
We would sing our loud hosannas now and through eternity.

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

**One:** God of breath, wind, and fire, we cry out for your Spirit to enter our world anew. We live in a world of violence and cruelty, oppression and injustice. The powerful are indifferent and complacent. The vulnerable are hurting so much. We have more questions than answers: how can we maintain our hope? Is there anything to be done? Too often we act as if dreams of justice are just fantasy. Too often we believe lies that the world cannot change. Send your Spirit to renew us and refill us. Grant us the courage to follow where the Spirit leads, to speak words of truth, and to act with clarity and love.

**Many:** **Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

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

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

**One:** The Spirit moves in the Church, whether we are ready or not. She speaks, and leads, and gives us what we need to follow.  
Therefore, let us celebrate together:

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

**Sung Response:** PH (blue) 315 (chorus) *Ev'ry 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: 24-34 *Today's psalm reading will be shared in several languages. The translation below is adapted from 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.

May Adonai's glory be forever,

may Adonai rejoice in Her works,

Who but looks down to earth, and it trembles,

but touches the mountains—they smoke.

Let me sing to Adonai while I live,

let me hymn to my God while I breathe.

Let my speech be sweet unto Her.

As for me, I rejoice in Adonai.

Let offenders vanish from earth and the wicked be no more. Bless, O my  
being, Adonai, Hallelujah!

## **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 nation 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, “People of Judea 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:** PH (blue) 315 (chorus)

*Ev'ry 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.

## **Pentecost Prayer Stations**

*For those in person, you are invited to quietly and contemplatively visit the stations around the Sanctuary, each one with a different invitation of how we experience the Holy Spirit.*

*Those online will also receive guidance for this moment of prayer.*

Music During Prayer Stations:

*Peace, Piece*

Bill Evans

*Cast your Fate to the Wind*

Vince Guaraldi

**Hymn:** PH (blue) 319

*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.*

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***

You swept through the desert, You stung with sand,

And you gifted your people with a law and a land,

And when they were blinded with their idols and lies,

Then You spoke through Your prophets to open their eyes. ***Refrain***

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***

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***

## **Moment for Mission & Call to Offering**

*Today we collect our Pentecost Special 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: <http://www.cotcbos.org/give.html>

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

## **Offertory**

*Veni Sancte Spiritus*

Taizé

Sung in Latin: *Come Holy Spirit*

Sung in Spanish: *Come Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light.*

Sung in French: *Come Father/Mother of the poor, come generous spirit, come light of our hearts, come Holy Spirit.*

Sung in English: *Come from the four winds, O spirit, come breath of God; disperse the shadows over us, come Holy Spirit.*

## **\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that love has done,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **Celebrations and Concerns**

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

## **Pastoral 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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*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:**

**Worship Leaders** – Rev. Rob Mark, Rev. Joshua Lazard, Rev. Kate Carlisle

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Moment for Mission** – Christine James

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

**Covenant Choir**

**Vocal Soloist** – Tim Groves

**Usher** – Anne Crane

**Digital Minister** – Trudi Veldman

**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.



PENTECOST/STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL OFFERING TODAY.

Each of our denominations takes a Special Offering today on Pentecost Sunday. The PCUSA Pentecost Offering focuses on programs that benefit youth and young adults. One example is the Young Adult Volunteer program. Covenant had several talented and dedicated Young Adult Volunteers working with both the church and the Women's Lunch Place in years past.

The UCC Strengthen the Church Offering's theme is "On Holy Ground." The UCC uses these funds for leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing churches.

This year your Mission and Advocacy Committee has chosen to send the local portion to Camp Wilmot – the Presbyterian camp in NH where we held some of our retreats more than a decade ago. Thank you for your consideration. Please give generously.

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 June 4, Trinity Sunday, Rev. Rob preaching
- Sunday June 11, Pride Sunday, Rev. Rob preaching
- Sunday June 18, Juneteenth Sunday, Rev. Kate preaching
- Sunday June 25, Rev. Joshua preaching

UPCOMING ADULT ED SESSIONS POST WORSHIP.

- Sunday July 16, Climate Jubilee All Church Read – *Cathedral on Fire*

LIFE ALIVE MONTHLY BRUNCH. This group of 20s, 30s, and 40s meets monthly for fellowship and community. Want to know more? Email Rev. Joshua at joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org.

PRIDE SUNDAY JUNE 11: Also please email Rev. Kate if you have interest in marching in Saturday's PRIDE Parade, kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org.

SUMMER SOLSTICE EVENSONG SERVICE. Join us Wednesday, June 21 at 7:30pm on the Arthur Fiedler dock along the Quinobequin (Charles) River as we give thanks again to God for the changing season and gift of light and life.

COVENANT CABARET, Saturday, June 24th, starting at 7pm. Come join us for this convivial event with tasty refreshments and fun entertainment. Please let Tim Groves know if you would like to perform, twgroves@comcast.net. The Cabaret is a fund-raiser to support our sibling relationship with the Church of the Poor in Dulce Nombre de Jesús, Nicaragua.

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.

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.

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!

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

STAFF AWAY. Rev. Joshua will be away for the weekend of Juneteenth. Rev. Rob will be away June 14-28 on a week of UCC directed Clergy Renewal, and a combined week of partial vacation and continuing education.

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.

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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 Providee*

CHURCH OFFICERS

Liz Vizza, *President of the Corporation*
Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*
Anita Gram, *Moderator of Board of Deacons*
Faith Perry, *Treasurer*