



**Church of the Covenant**  
**The First Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Fifth Sunday *Selah***

May 31, 2026, 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 Bates Hall 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.

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

**Gathering Song**

*We Are Building Up a New World*

We are building up a new world (3x)  
Builders must be strong!

Courage, siblings, don't get weary  
Courage, siblings, don't get weary  
Courage, people, don't get weary  
Though the way be long.

Rise, shine & give God glory (3x)  
Children of the Light.

~by Vincent Harding, Luke Racker



**Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.  
Many: **And also with you.**

**Experiencing God**

**\* Call to Worship**

One: Stop.  
Many: **Stop worrying.**  
One: Stop.  
Many: **Stop judging.**  
One: Start.  
Many: **Start wondering.**  
One: Start.

**Many:** Start loving.

**One:** Life is short, and we have little time to gladden the hearts of those who journey the way with us.

**Many:** So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind. For God who travels with us, is within us. Let us worship.

**\* Kindling the Christ Light**

**One:** The light of Christ,

**Many:** Thanks be to God!

## Lord, Prepare Me

### Sanctuary

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is accompanied by guitar chords indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and  
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,  
I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

TEXT: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982  
MUSIC: John Thomson and Randy Scruggs, 1982; arr. Nylea L. Butler-Moore

SANCTUARY  
CCLI # 1543869

## Holy Words of Wisdom

### Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for God who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## Acts 5:42

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

## The Spiritual Practice of Small

### Breaking into Small Groups

- 1) Identify **one** person who can lead your group by simply walking your group through each number on this page: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Begin by going around the table and introducing yourself *briefly* by sharing a) your **name**/ pronouns, b) a place you currently call **home**, and c) something you like to do just for the **joy** of it.
- 3) Now go a little deeper by going around the group again and taking a little more time to share about your faith journey. Mention how you were raised (in a faith tradition or not) and/ or (depending on time) – describe a place you go these days to feel close to God.
- 4) Share a prayer request / celebrations and concerns with each other. After each person shares, end with the call and response:  
One: God, in your grace,  
Many: **Receive our prayer.**
- 5) Continuing the Spiritual Practice: Consider exchanging **contact info** (use index cards to share emails) with the intention to meet up again before our next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Selah on August 30.

## Pastoral Prayer

\* **Closing Song** NCH (black) 2 (verses 1-3)

*Glory Hallelujah*

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.  
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

Feel like shouting “Hallelujah”! Since I laid my burdens down.  
Feel like shouting “Hallelujah”! Since I laid my burdens down.

**\* 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**

**Worship Leaders** – Rev. Rob Mark, Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

**Usher** – Denice Thornhill

**Audio Visual Tech Team**

**Digital Minister** – Sandra May

**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 welcome 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.

**WELCOME CHILDREN & YOUTH!!** Welcome to all children, youth, and families—those we know already and those who are here for the first time. For this Pentecost all-ages service, families and young ones of all ages are encouraged to stay in worship, or to come and go from the nursery however works best for you! 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. 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](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org) if you want to receive updates.

**UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP.** Please join us each Sunday at 10:30 am as we come together in community to pray, sing, share celebrations and concerns, and hear God's still-speaking Word proclaimed in these hybrid (in person and on Zoom) services.

- June 7: Rev. Rob Mark preaching, Holy Communion
- June 14: Reflection on the Word, Rev. Rob Mark leading worship, Deacons' End of Life Planning Session After Worship
- June 21: Outdoor Climate Jubilee Service Meeting at Public Garden and processing to the Esplanade / All Church Picnic on the River

**END OF LIFE PREPARATIONS: PRAYER, INFORMATION, AND WORK SESSIONS: MAY 31 AND JUNE 14 AFTER WORSHIP.** Please join your Deacons for a two-part program (in person and online) reviewing "End of Life Preparations." The program is intended to assist in thinking about and planning for end-of-life matters, including wills, powers of attorney, health proxies, funeral arrangements, and other issues that might arise. The **May 31** meeting will be led by Covenant's own Kathryn Barry, who will provide guidance on estate planning. The **June 14** meeting will provide time for further discussion, reviewing forms and digital resources, and working on the documentation discussed earlier.

**PCUSA-ers & UCC-ers FOR PRIDE 2026.** Join us at Boston Pride for the People! COTC will be joining with other affirming congregations in the Presbytery of Boston to march in the Pride Parade on Saturday, June 6. We will also have a shared booth in the festival to let people know about our churches. If you are interested in marching in Pride and/or in volunteering for a shift in the festival booth, or if you have any questions, please let Rev. Kate ([kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org)) know as soon as possible. All COTCers are welcome and we encourage you to bring friends! If you'll be at Pride in any capacity, wear a COTC T-shirt or the Presbyterians for Pride shirt from previous years!

**FORMATION WITH OUR SIBLING COMMUNITY IN NICARAGUA.** On **Wednesday, June 10, starting at 4:00 pm**, we have a very special, first-time opportunity for the whole congregation to participate in an online formation with our sibling community in Dulce Nombre de Jesús, Nicaragua. The formation will replace Evening Prayers. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81806384201?pwd=Kp8RcsumObsUVMXFutPDxGjba7kAzi.1>

**ALL-CHURCH READ ON JUNE 16.** Tuesday, June 16, 6:30-7:30 pm, via Zoom. The Climate Jubilee Team will host an online discussion of *Refugia Faith: Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth* by Debra Rienstra. The book explores how Christian spirituality and practice must adapt to prepare for life on a climate-altered planet. Here is a link to her recent article which was shared by Third Act Faith: <https://tinyurl.com/cotcrefugiafaith>

**LIFE ALIVE BRUNCHES.** Every third Sunday, Life Alive meets immediately after church for monthly fellowship. Life Alive is a small group for adults navigating career, family, and life transitions. If you want to join or have questions, see or email Rev. Joshua at [joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org). Next brunch to be determined.

**COVENANT CONNECTIONS.** Are you in college? Just moved to the Boston area for grad school? Are you early in your career and looking for a spiritual home? Covenant Connections is a small group for those looking for a spiritual community to discern what God has next for them through Bible studies and connecting over meals. If you want to know more, email Rev. Joshua at [joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org).

**WANT TO JOIN COTC?** We'd love to welcome you as our newest member! Joining a faith community in these chaotic days is one practical action one can take to counter the forces of isolation, division, and hopelessness in our world and country these days. Did you know we have multiple forms of membership at Church of the Covenant including Affiliates and Associates? We also have customizable to your schedule "COTC 101" classes to deepen your exposure to our congregation. Speak to pastors Rob or Joshua at any point, or email our Parish Administrator Nancy if you'd like to know more: [nancy.stockford@cotcbos.org](mailto:nancy.stockford@cotcbos.org).

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS.** Bible Study meets weekly on Wednesday mornings at 9:45 on Zoom. The Wednesday morning Bible study is exploring the Gospel of Matthew. If you would like more information or want to be on the list to get regular reminders and Zoom details, contact Jack Ammerman at [jwacooks@gmail.com](mailto:jwacooks@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](#).

**WEEKLY CALENDAR.** Click [here](http://cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events) ([cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events](http://cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events)) to view the weekly calendar of events.

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**Church of the Covenant**  
Boston Massachusetts

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**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](http://cotcbos.org). Note that your information goes only to our pastors and you will not be added to any email lists.



*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!*

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Rob Mark, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence Lazard, *Associate Pastor*

Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*

Bill Brown, *Building Manager*

Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator*

Nancy Stockford, *Parish Administrator/Financial Secretary*

Jesús Vargas, *Sexton*

Venkatesh Balasubramanian, *Music Composition Fellow 2025-2026*

Soyoung Cho, *Childcare Provider*

#### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Brian Bigler, *President of the Corporation*

Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*

Anita Gram, *Moderator of the Board of Deacons*

Faith Perry, *Treasurer*