

# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



## Pentecost

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

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



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## Pentecost

June 5, 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.

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.*

**Prelude**

*Come Holy Spirit (Dialogue)*

Nicolas de Grigny

### **Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

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

One: It's Pentecost! As we gather, we pray for the Spirit of God to come and fill us, change us, renew us, save us.

Many: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

One: Come, Spirit, like fire, and ignite a spark of love in our hearts and words of truth on our lips.

Many: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

One: Come, Spirit, like a roaring wind, and clear away all of the violence, evil, and injustice that harm God's beloved.

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**

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 plague and violence, 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 that we may have the courage to follow where the Spirit leads, to speak words of truth, 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!**

**Choral Response:**   *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*

arr. William Dawson

### **Reading from Scripture**

**Hebrew Bible Reading:** Psalm 104: 24-34

*(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.  
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 receive instructions.*

**Hymn:** PH (blue) 319

*Spirit*

#### ***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**

*Come Holy Spirit (Duo)*

de Grigny

## **\*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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## Worship Participants

**Worship Leaders** – COTC CYCE kids, youth, and teachers, Rev. Rob Mark, Rev. Joshua Lazard, Rev. Kate Carlisle

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Guest Keyboardist** – Avi Randall

**Cantors** – COTC Choir

**Moment for Mission** – Christine James

**Audio-Visual Techs** – Derek Holbrook, Rev. Rob Mark

**Cover Art** – Adam Kossowski, *Veni Sancti Spiritus*, c. 1965

**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.

**PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING:** On this Pentecost Sunday we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit. COTC is collecting a special offering on behalf of our two denominations to demonstrate the Holy Spirit's power to transform the world and each of us. The UCC's Strengthen the Church offering supports new and innovative ministries in UCC churches. This support has been and continues to be especially valuable and necessary during the ongoing pandemic. The PCUSA Pentecost Offering is used to invest in young people through programs like Young Adult Volunteers and providing aid to at-risk children. As our congregation grieves and condemns the horrific and ongoing crisis of gun violence and associated mass shootings in our country, our Mission and Advocacy Committee has decided to contribute a portion of this year's offering to a local group dedicated to helping keep our youth safe from gun violence – the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. Please consider investing in the future of our two denominations by giving to the Pentecost-Strengthen the Church offerings.

### **TODAY AFTER WORSHIP: DEMOCRACY & CLIMATE ADULT ED:**

Join us after worship in the sanctuary & on Zoom as Christine James leads us in this important Climate Jubilee inspired discussion. Drawing on both historical precedents & recent events, Christine will speak of how our faith requires us to protect our democracy as a prerequisite to effectively addressing climate change and other threats to God's creation. For those joining us online, please sign out of Zoom after worship, & then simply re-join the same link 5 minutes after worship. [Link here.](#)

**BOOK TALK TODAY WITH REV. JOSHUA:** COTC's own Rev Joshua will be joining the authors of a new book based on James Baldwin's work *You Mean it or You Don't: James Baldwin's Radical Challenge* today, June 5, at 7pm. It will be a virtual event that you can participate in at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/348077096967>

**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 12, Rev. Rob preaching, All Church End of School Year Picnic
- Sunday, June 19, **ZOOM ONLY**, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
- Sunday, June 26, Rev. Rob preaching

**HOUSING CALL TO ACTION:** During Lent, we resisted together in the ways of justice, including housing justice. We supported The Everyone Needs an ID bill – and now we need to do all we can to help it pass! Boston's Faith Leaders for Housing Justice we need your help to amp up the advocacy to pass the Everyone Needs ID/Mass ID access bill before the Massachusetts Legislature closes out formal sessions for the 2021-2022 legislative session at the end of July. The bill unanimously was passed for the third session in a row by the Senate on January 18th and was assigned to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Now we need your help in calling on House Leadership to take swift action to pass the Mass ID access bill!

- Please sign and share our one-minute email action to House Speaker Ron Mariano, House Ways and Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz, and your own State Representative. The action can be signed and shared here: <https://mahomeless.org/mass-id-access-action/>
- If you are part of an organization, please also help us to get your organization to officially support this campaign by becoming an organizational endorser. The endorsement form is available here to complete and share: <https://tinyurl.com/massid2122>
- Want to do more? Please follow up your email action with a phone call. Ask your State Representative to urge House Leadership to bring the Mass ID access bill, Senate Bill 2612, to a vote as soon as possible. State Representatives can be reached via the State House switchboard: 617-722-2000. The full contact information for each Representative is included on the [Legislature's website](#).

Unsure who your Representative is? Find them by entering your address/address where you are staying here: [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com)

## **JUBILEE SOLIDARITY WITH LOCAL TRIBAL COMMUNITY**

**SATURDAY JUNE 11, 10am-2pm:** We have been invited to join the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe (Plymouth) in a work day clean-up of some of their sacred lands. Our Climate Jubilee Team sees this is as a wonderful chance to begin building some relationships with some of our indigenous neighbors who are actively working to protect the sacred Pine Barren Forests in southeastern MA. [Find more details in This Week at Covenant.](#)

## **ALL CHURCH BEGINNING OF SUMMER PICNIC NEXT SUNDAY:**

Come one, come all to the All Church Beginning of Summer Picnic next Sunday, June 12, following the worship service on the Boston Common. We will gather on the grass to the left of the carousel on the Common. Bring your lunch, perhaps a simple finger food to share, something to sit on, a ball or frisbee etc. Rides will be available. In case of rain or extreme heat, we will reschedule to another date when we can safely gather together outside.

**COVENANT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP JUNE 12:** The next Church of the Covenant book discussion will take place next 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).

**SUMMER SOLSTICE SUNSET EVENSONG:** Tuesday, June 21, 7:30-8:30pm  
Join our Climate Jubilee Team as they host this first ever, simple outdoor prayer gathering along the sacred shores of the Quinobequin (settler named Charles) River to give thanks to God for this longest day as we together watch the sun set. [RSVP here to join us on the Solstice.](#)

**CYCE UPDATES:** Today is our All Ages Worship, and next week we'll join for our Beginning of Summer Picnic as our church school year comes to an end. 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).

**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](#).

**LIFE ALIVE** is our 20s30s40s young adult group that meets monthly for brunches. If you have any questions or would like to join us, please [email Rev. Joshua](#).

**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 June 26, 1:30pm Arboretum with Nancy Stockford & Mark Huston: [Sign up here](#)
- Sunday July 25, 1:30pm Middlesex Fells with Holly Humphreys: [Sign up here](#)
- *Want to add a jaunt?? Email [Betty](#) and we'll add it to the list!*

**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*