

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



 **Trinity Pride Sunday** 
Celebration of Holy Communion

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

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

 



Church of the Covenant
Trinity Pride Sunday
Celebration of Holy Communion

June 12, 2022, 10:30 am

[Zoom Link](#)

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.

Today we will celebrate communion so if you are joining us online, please gather a plate & cup.

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

Prelude

True Colors

arr. Tom Handel

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: And also with you.

*** Call to Worship**

One: We are part of the Church universal—faithful people across the spectrum of identity, orientation and gender-- gathered to love and serve God.

Many: There is a place in God’s heart, there is a place at Christ’s table, there is a place here at this church for all expressions of creation.

One: Christ who gathers us, bids us follow in the ways of love and justice.

ZOOM: May our hearts be open to Christ’s leading in our worship and our living, this day and always.

One: Together, let us worship God, rejoicing in the proud good news which we celebrate this day!

***Kindling the Christ Light**

***Opening Hymn:**

All the Colors of the Rainbow
HYMN TUNE: In Babilone

All the colors of the rainbow
live unseen in daily light,
but their splendors find expression
when released to human sight;
so the church reveals most beauty
where diversity is real:
breadth of race and class and gender,
room for doubt, and space to heal.

All the body's parts are wanted,
nor can one despise the rest:
head and hand must work together,
as must eye, ear, throat, and chest;
so the church needs all its members
for a range of ministries:
varied gifts with one great mission,
"Do this for the least of these."

Every language gains more music
when the words for peace appear:
Pax, Salaam, Eiríni, Heiwa,
Pace, Santi, Frieden, Mir.
Though our tongues make sounds that vary
all bespeak a common home:
longing for the end of conflict
and new life in God's Shalom.

Teach us, God, our need of others;
through them help us fully live.
Wean us from our selfish habits;
let us listen, learn, forgive.
May we see your longed-for image
in each human heart and face,
and behold how those around us
can be channels of your grace.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: God of Peace, we confess we are sometimes at war. At war within our hearts – restless over who we are and who we are not – as individuals and as a collective whole. And we confess our complicity in a world that so quickly places labels that divide us, limit us, and harm us. Forgive us, loving Source. May all swords within us and around us be remade into plowshares so that every hunger is satiated and every identity, gender, orientation and background is celebrated.

One: Let us now listen to the intimations of God in silent prayer...

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: When we are in bondage to fear or negative thinking, God comes to us with words of liberation. When we find parts of ourselves or our community unfamiliar or hard to love, Jesus comes to us with the example of reconciliation. When we feel our world is polarized beyond repair, the Spirit comes to us with the promise of restoration. Therefore, as a people forgiven in grace, let us celebrate together:

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

Sung Response:

Easter Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!

Reading from Scripture

Hebrew Bible Reading: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

God created me at the beginning of creation, the first act.

Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth- when God had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When God established the heavens, I was there, when God drew a circle on the face of the deep, when God made firm the skies above, when God established the fountains of the deep, when God assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress God's command, when God marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside God, like a master worker; and I was daily God's delight, rejoicing before the Source always, rejoicing in God's inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Gospel Reading: John 16:12-15

Jesus said... "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, She will guide you into all the truth; for She will not speak on Her own, but will speak whatever She hears, and She will declare to you the things that are to come. They will glorify me, because They will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Source has is mine. For this reason I said that They will take what is mine and declare it to you."

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response:

Easter Celtic Alleluia

Sermon

Many More Things to Hear

Call to Offering

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

Offertory

Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World

arr. Tom Handel

*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

* Communion Hymn

I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

1. 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.
2. All God's children gonna eat together...

* The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!
Many: **And also with you.**
One: Children 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...

...And so, with your people here on earth, with our ancestors and the great company of heaven, we glorify your name, praising you together saying:

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!

One: Holy are you, O God, maker of heaven and earth...

...who taught us to pray, saying:

*** The Jesus Prayer of Awareness**

(in unison)

Our Mother and Father, our beloved parent, in whom we move and breathe and have our being,

The hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children. May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.

Grant that beloved LGBTQ+ loved ones might have their daily needs met—that they might find gainful employment without discrimination; that they might have access to medical care without fear; that they might have their rights and lives protected, and that they might find a loving community to belong to and call their own.

Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed our beloved transgender children, youth and young adults. Forgive us of the times we turned away, or did not see their story as part of our own; for the times we undervalued or judged their unique expression of your image; for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear – forgive us, as we forgive those who might have failed us.

Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But instead give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be made manifest now and forever. Amen.

This prayer was originally written for Central Congregational UCC (Atlanta, GA) October 9, 2016

Sharing of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Post Communion Prayer

* Closing Hymn

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Refrain

Ha - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais-es! All our

hearts are filled with glad - ness! Ha - le - lu - jah! We sing your

Second time to verse

prais - es! All our hearts are filled with glad - ness!

1 Christ the Lord to us said, "I am wine, I am bread, I am
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt, strong in

Second time to refrain

wine, I am bread. Give to all who thirst and hun - ger."
faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Thanking our Teachers and Stewards of our Children & Youth

*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

Preacher – Rev. Rob Mark

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Liturgists – Prof. Nancy Ammerman, Rev. Jack Ammerman

Lector – Donald Denniston

Digital Minister – Rev. Joshua Lazard

Audio-Visual Tech – Abhishek John

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.

PICNIC & PRIDE: TODAY AFTER WORSHIP: ALL CHURCH BEGINNING OF SUMMER PICNIC! *NEW LOCATION!* Come one, come all to the All Church Beginning of Summer Picnic today Sunday, June 12, following the worship service on the Public Garden. We will gather on the grass near the George Robert White Memorial, *Cast Your Bread Upon the Waters* near the corner of Arlington and Beacon Streets. Bring your lunch, something to sit on, a ball or frisbee etc. Rides will be available if needed. In case of rain or extreme heat, we will reschedule to another date when we can safely gather together outside.

FOLLOWING our picnic, join us as we go over to the Common to join in the People 4 Pride event: boston-pop-up-pride.org in celebration of Pride Sunday and Month.



NEXT WEEK SUNDAY WORSHIP IS ZOOM ONLY PLEASE NOTE.

COVENANT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP JUNE 12: The next Church of the Covenant book discussion will take place today, June 12, at 5 PM via Zoom. 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. [Here's the Zoom link.](#)

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 19, **ZOOM ONLY**, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
- Sunday, June 26, Rev. Rob preaching

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.](#)

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.

SEASON OF THE SPIRIT 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.](#)

CYCE UPDATES: Today we mark the end of our Sunday school year, with enormous thanks to all our kids, youth, families, and teachers. The nursery is open today; we will not have nursery care from next week until the fall. We send CYCE updates by email, so [let Kate know](#) if you would like to be on our list. Have a wonderful summer!

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 24, 3:00pm Middlesex Fells with Syd Smith, park at the Flynn ice rink in Medford: [Sign up here](#)
- *Want to add a jaunt?? Email [Betty](#) and we'll add it to the list!*

CLIMATE JUBILEE JAUNT SUNDAY JUNE 26 ARNOLD ARBORETUM

1:30pm: As part of the Climate Jubilee Team's continued goal of being outside and appreciating nature *as it is now* with all of you, please join Nancy Stockford and Mark Huston in a walk in the [Arnold Arboretum](#) in Jamaica Plain, part of Boston's Emerald Necklace. [Sign up here](#), and Nancy will send you directions, meetup location, and parking and public transportation information. [Contact Nancy](#) with questions. And for those of you in our diaspora, please take a walk on the 26th, send us pictures, and be with us in solidarity with nature!

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

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*