

# Church of the Covenant

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



**Juneteenth Sunday**  
**Holy Communion of the People**  
**June 18, 2023**



# Church of the Covenant, Boston MA

June 18, 2023, 10:30 am

Juneteenth Sunday / Holy Communion of the People

[Zoom Link](#)

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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.

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

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

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**Prelude**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

arr. Fred Bock

## **Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

## **\* Call to Worship**

*from Psalm 100*

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!

Many: **Worship God with gladness;  
come into divine presence with singing!**

One: Know that the Lord is God.

God made us.

We belong to God.

Many: **We are God’s people.**

**We are the sheep of God’s pasture.**

**We are the flock God tends.**

One: Enter the holy gates with thanks.

Enter God’s courts with praise.

Many: **Give thanks to God! Bless God’s name!**

One: For God is good.

God’s steadfast love lasts forever,

and God’s faithfulness to all generations.

**\* Kindling the Christ Light**

**\* Opening Hymn:** PH (blue) 332 (v. 1, 3, 4)

*Live Into Hope*

Live into hope of captives freed,  
Of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see  
The year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope of liberty,  
The right to speak, the right to be,  
The right to have one's daily bread,  
To hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed  
From chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release  
To faith and hope and joy and peace.

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

*from Vida en la tierra, AIPRAL, 2006*

**Many:** Living God, you unsettle us because you made all living beings in your image. We are horrified at watching some sing songs while millions cry out in pain. Free us from insensitivity to the suffering of others. Just God, wake us from our comforts while others suffer and die in an unjust economic system that rules the world. Help us see your world through the eyes of Jesus Christ. Creator God, this economic system plunders earth's treasures, destroys species daily, and threatens the ecosystem of those creatures who depend on it for survival. Liberate your earth. Only in the light of your presence, O God, and thanks to the promises of life abundant given by Jesus, are we willing to look at what we have done. Forgive us, and unite us in a way that leads to justice and truth.

**One:** Let us now open ourselves to God in silence...

## Listening to God in Silent Prayer

### Assurance of God's Grace

**One:** The God who created us in love is a God of liberation, a God of abundance, a God who calls us into beloved community. Even now, the reign of heaven is very near. Let us give thanks and celebrate together:

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

**\* Sung Response:** PH (blue) 398 (chorus)

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit (refrain)*

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise,  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
when we shall leave this place.

### Readings from Scripture

**New Testament Reading:** Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 9:35-10:23

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

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

**Sung Response:** PH (blue) 398 (chorus)

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit (refrain)*

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise,  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
when we shall leave this place.

**Sermon**

“The Practice of Freedom”

**Call to Offering**

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

**Offertory**

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

arr. Bradley Sowash

**\* 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 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 (x2).

## \* The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!

**Many: And also with you.**

One: People of the Spirit, 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 all the ancestors,  
and all the saints and the great company of heaven, we glorify your  
name, praising you together:

**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...

## \* The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Father and Mother, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your  
kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this  
day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours  
is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Breaking of the Bread

## Sharing of the Bread and Cup

## Post Communion Prayer

**\* Closing Hymn:** PH (blue) 563

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last,  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might led us into the light;  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.

**\* 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:**

**Preacher** – Rev. Kate Carlisle

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Lector** – Rev. So Jung Kim

**Liturgist** – Nancy Ammerman

**Communion Servers** – Kathryn Barry, Harry Forsdick

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

**Digital Minister** – Christine James

**Usher** – 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](http://cotcbos.org).



**DENOUNCING ANTISEMITISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA,**

**TODAY.** How do we love our Jewish and Muslim neighbors? Let it Sing - [PC\(USA\) General Assembly Study Document](#). Join us as we are led by Rev. Dr. So Jung Kim in a post worship adult ed about the PC(USA)'s recent document "Denouncing Antisemitism and Islamophobia."

**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](mailto:twgroves@comcast.net). The Cabaret is a fundraiser to support our sibling relationship with the Church of the Poor in Dulce Nombre de Jesús, Nicaragua.

**PRESBYTERY OF BOSTON WORSHIP AND COOKOUT.** You are invited to join folks from around the Presbytery of Boston at Hartford St. Presbyterian Church on Saturday, June 24 at 1 pm, for a Service of Communion and a Cookout, featuring cuisines of the Presbytery of Boston's congregations and New Worshiping Communities. We're looking forward to worshipping together, great food, and great fellowship. This is an omnivore potluck, but it would be a great opportunity to bring and share some of the plant-based foods that are such a part of fellowship at COTC. Come, bring the food you love, and feast!

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS.** Due to people's schedules, we will not meet on Zoom for prayers on June 21 or 28. We'll be back at it July 5. Keep up your prayers for each other and God's wide creation! God in your grace, receive our prayer!

**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 11, Pride Sunday, Rev. Rob preaching
- Sunday June 18, Juneteenth Sunday, Rev. Kate preaching
- Sunday June 25, Rev. Joshua preaching
- Sunday July 2, Reflection on the Word, Communion

**UPCOMING ADULT ED SESSIONS POST WORSHIP.**

- Sunday, June 18, Rev. Dr. So Jung Kim on PCUSA document “denouncing Antisemitism and Islamophobia”
- Sunday July 16, Climate Jubilee All Church Read – *Cathedral on Fire*

**CLIMATE JUBILEE ALL-CHURCH READ.** Covenant's Climate Jubilee Team invites you to a hybrid all-church book discussion after worship on Sunday, July 16, to

discuss *Cathedral of Fire* by Brooks Berndt.

**COVENANT BOOK DISCUSSION JULY 23.** The next Covenant book discussion will be held Sunday, July 23, at 5pm. Join us at Faith and Lucy's (Roslindale) for an in-person discussion and a potluck! The book will be: *When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God* by T. M. Luhrmann (first half).

**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](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org).

**CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING.** We have a vibrant program for children and youth and we welcome new families! Sunday School classes do not meet during the summer but the nursery is open during worship. Babies, toddlers, and young children 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](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org).

**BIBLE STUDY TUESDAYS.** Join our Bible Study group 9:15am Tuesdays to explore the Gospel of Matthew. For more info, Jan at [revjangough@gmail.com](mailto:revjangough@gmail.com).

**HEARING ASSISTED DEVICES.** Speak with an usher if you would like to use these devices that work with or without a hearing aid.

**PARKING BARGAIN.** Worshipers may park at the Back Bay Garage [Clarendon Street, between Boylston and St. James] on Sundays between 6am and 9pm 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.

**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.

**HYMNS STREAMED** with permission under One License #A-741135.

**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 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 Provider*

#### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

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