

Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



The Season of Pentecost Summer 2023

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant

Summer 2023

10:30 a.m.

The Season of Pentecost/ Ordinary Time

Zoom link: tinyurl.com/cotcworship

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Introduction to Today's Music

Prelude

* Call To Worship

* Opening Hymn: PH (blue) 339

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art –
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise.
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own hear, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Lighting of the Christ Light

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Shared Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

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

* Sung Response

Amen, Bawo

5 A-men, we praise your name, O God! A-men we praise your name, O God!

A-men, ba- wo. A-men, ba- wo. A-men, we praise your name, O God!

Reading from Scripture

New Testament Reading: Acts 27:27-28:6

When the fourteenth night had come, as we were drifting across the sea of Adria, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land. So they took soundings and found twenty fathoms; a little farther on they took soundings again and found fifteen fathoms. Fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. But when the sailors tried to escape from the ship and had lowered the boat into the sea, on the pretext of putting out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat and set it adrift.

Just before daybreak, Paul urged all of them to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have been in suspense and remaining without food, having eaten nothing. Therefore I urge you to take some food, for it will help you survive; for none of you will lose a hair from your heads." After he had said this, he took bread; and giving thanks to God in the presence of all, he broke it and began to eat. Then all of them were encouraged and took food for themselves. (We were in all two hundred seventy-six persons in the ship.)

After they had satisfied their hunger, they lightened the ship by throwing the wheat into the sea. In the morning they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned to run the ship ashore, if they could. So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea. At the same time they loosened the ropes that tied the steering-oars; then hoisting the foresail to the wind, they made for the beach. But striking a reef, they ran the ship aground; the bow stuck and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the force of the waves. The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none might swim away and escape; but the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, and the rest to follow, some on planks and others on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

After we had reached safety, we then learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us unusual kindness. Since it had begun to rain and was cold, they kindled a fire and welcomed all of us around it. Paul had gathered a bundle of brushwood and was putting it on the fire, when a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "This man must be a murderer; though he has escaped from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live." He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. They were expecting him to swell up or drop dead, but after they had waited a long time and saw that nothing unusual had happened to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god.

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

Sung Response

Amen, Bawo

Sermon

Call to Offering

Offertory

*** 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

*** Closing Hymn: NCH (black) 403**

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Verse 1

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' love and righteousness;
I dare not trust this earthly frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

Verse 2

When shadows veil my Savior's face,
I rest upon unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

Verse 3

Christ's oath and covenant and blood
support me in the rising flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
Christ then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

Verse 4

When Christ shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Love be found;
Dressed in Gods righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne. *Refrain*

*** Charge and Benediction**

*** Exchange of the Peace:**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

SUMMER SUNDAYS AT COVENANT:

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE COVENANT: We are delighted to welcome you to our community of faith and so glad you are worshipping with us today! If you are new to our community, we hope you will feel at home and welcomed during today's service. If you have any questions about who we are as a community of faith, please reach out to a member of staff over the chat in Zoom. Announcements will not be updated in the digital bulletin. For updated information, please sign up to receive our newsletters, see: cotcbos.org/this-week-at-covenant.html

UPCOMING SUNDAY 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 (in-person and Zoom) services.

- June 25, Rev. Joshua preaching
- July 2, Reflection on the Word, Communion
- July 9, Rev. Rob preaching, New Member Joining Sunday
- July 16, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion, Climate Jubilee Book Discussion
- July 23, Rev. Rob preaching
- July 30, J.J. Martinez Guest Preacher
- August 6, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
- August 13, Rev. Kate Carlisle preaching
- August 20, Sierra Mink Guest Preacher, Communion
- August 27, Rev. Joshua preaching



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*
Nancy Stockford, *Financial Secretary / Parish Administrator*
Fred Lopes, *Sunday Sexton*
Alan Lane, *Food Cupboard Coordinator*
Kelsie Lawhorn, *Child Care 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*