

Church of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ



July 7, 2024
Season of Pentecost



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July 7, 2024, 10:30 am

[Zoom Link](#)

Welcome and thank you for worshipping together for this Zoom-only service where we will be joining each other from many different sacred spaces. After the initial time of greeting, please keep your mic muted during the service unless otherwise invited. The full service is recorded and later posted online. If you would like to share a prayer of Celebration or Concern you will be invited to place a prayer in the chat and we will share aloud.

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Prelude

Morning Has Broken

arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

Call to Worship

One: God's greatness is wondrous to behold.

Many: **Everywhere we look, we can see the imprint of God.**

One: From the loftiest mountains to the crashing waters of the sea,

Many: **There God's greatness stands majestically.**

One: God's greatness can be within the human heart.

Many: **Let us honor and praise God with acts of loving kindness and compassion...**

Opening Hymn PH (blue) 469

Morning Has Broken

Lighting the Christ Light

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

One: O God of people and nations, we are ignorant and arrogant about our own prosperity and might. When we forget how much we have, remind us of our abundance. When we take pride in our status and think ourselves better than others, grant us humility. When we use wealth and power to get our own way at the expense of others, correct us. Heal us, we pray, that we may be a force for wholeness. With all that we have, we pray for your forgiveness.

Let us now open ourselves to God in silent prayer...

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: God's anger lasts but a moment, but God's favor lasts a lifetime. Weeping may last the night, but joy comes in the morning. God takes off our sackcloth and clothes us with joy. Therefore, let us rejoice:

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

Sung Response

Amen, Bawo

Reading from Scripture

Hebrew Bible Reading – Psalm 30

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you the faithful ones,
and give thanks to God's holy name.

For God's anger is but for a moment;
God's favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity,
"I shall never be moved."

By your favor, O Lord,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face;
I was dismayed.

To you, O Lord, I cried,
and to the Lord I made supplication:
“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!”

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

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

Sermon

“Love Lifted”

Call to Offering

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

Offertory

How Can I Keep from Singing

arr. Taylor Davis

Communion Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

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

Concerns & Celebrations

Pastoral Prayer

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Hymn

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.
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, some of these days.

The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!

Many: **And also with you.**

One: People of Covenant, 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 high-
est! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of peace. Ho-
sanna in the highest!**

One: Holy are you, O God...

The Prayer of Jesus

(in unison)

**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.**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Post Communion Prayer

Charge & 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. Julie Avis Rogers

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Liturgist – Christine James

Lector – Linda Pursley

Cantor – Rev. Julie Avis Rogers

Vocal Soloist – Tom Reid

Percussion – Rev. Rob Mark

Digital Minister – Christine James

Audio Visual Tech Team – Venkatesh Balasubramanian

WELCOME BACK TO OUR GUEST PREACHER! Rev. Julie Avis Rogers, our former Associate Pastor, is here today (and will also be leading worship in person on August 4). Most recently, Julie served as the Director of Spiritual and Religious Life and Campus Champlain at Emerson College. She is about to launch a new business providing public speaking coaching and workshops (www.julieavisrogers.com). Julie and her wife Alyssa live in Watertown with their 4-year-old Zeke.

SUMMER SUNDAYS AT COVENANT

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.

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.



DURING THE SUMMER WE WILL USE ONE STANDARD BULLETIN. Hymns and other announcements will be shared during the service. Please help us save paper and return this bulletin to the back of the sanctuary following the conclusion of worship. Each week, we send up-to-date announcements via *This Week at Covenant*. To join the mailing list: cotcbos.org/this-week-at-covenant.html.

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 Zoom) services.

- June 30: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching, Cold Drink Fellowship After Worship
- July 7: ZOOM ONLY, Rev. Julie Avis Rogers preaching, Holy Communion
- July 14: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching, COTC 101
- July 21: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching, Holy Communion
- July 28: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching
- August 4: Rev. Julie Avis Rogers preaching, Holy Communion
- August 11: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching
- August 18: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching, Holy Communion
- August 25: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching

WELCOME CHILDREN & YOUTH!! Welcome to all children, youth, and families—those we know already and those who are here for the first time. Our Godly Play and other classes don't meet during the summer, but the nursery is open most Sundays. Families are welcome to drop off young ones in the nursery or to stick around or come and go as you feel comfortable. 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 if you want to receive updates.

STAFF VACATIONS: Current schedule for staff vacations based on Sundays:

Tom: July 14, 21, 28, and August 4

Rev. Joshua: July 7, August 4

Rev. Kate: June 30, July 7, August 4 and 11

GUEST MINISTER OF MUSIC KATE SALFELDER. Kate Salfelder will once again be filling in for Minister of Music Tom Handel while he is on much-deserved vacation this summer. We look forward to having her back on July 14, 21, 28, and August 4.

LIFE ALIVE BRUNCHES. Our young adult group will meet on the following dates: **July 21 and August 18.** If you have any questions or would like to join us, please email Rev. Joshua at joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org.

CHOIR & MUSIC MINISTRY. Our amazing all-volunteer choir, led by our Minister of Music Tom Handel, is off for the summer. If you would like to join or play an instrument, please email Tom at thomasghandel@gmail.com.

REV. ROB ON EXTENDED REFLECTION LEAVE. Lead Pastor Rob Mark is away until September 12. Rev. Joshua is serving as full-time Lead Pastor during this time. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rev. Joshua (joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org).

OPEN NEWBURY. Newbury Street is closed to motor vehicle traffic on ten consecutive **Sundays from June 30 to September 1**, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. That means no parking on Newbury Street *and* Berkeley Street. Please plan your travel to church accordingly. For more information, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/open-newbury-street>.

LET'S CELEBRATE MARY ROBINSON TURNING 90! Our beloved Mary Robinson is turning 90 on August 21! She is using this major milestone to raise funds for Covenant's planned restoration of the Madonna window. Mary is hoping YOU will participate by contributing to this project! We will celebrate Mary and receive these gifts on **August 25.** Questions: email Nancy Stockford (nancy.stockford@cotcbos.org). Online giving option: www.cotcbos.org/give (choose "Madonna Window").

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT: SAVE THE DATE! The all-church retreat will be held on **Saturday, October 26**, at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham. Please plan to join us!

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS. Our weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:45 on Zoom. We are embarking on a new adventure—a study of one of the books of the Apocrypha, namely 1st Maccabees. This historical book helps us fill in some of the history that happened between Old and New Testament times and was part of the Greek version of the scriptures that the early church had available to them, but eventually dropped out of most Protestant versions of the Bible. If you'd like more information or want to be on the list to get regular reminders and Zoom info, contact Jan Gough at revjangough@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS ON HIATUS UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER. Our weekly Wednesday evening prayers will return in September.



Church of the Covenant
Boston Massachusetts

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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 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. Joshua Lawrence Lazard, *Lead Pastor (pro tem)*

Rev. Rob Mark, *Lead Pastor (on sabbatical)*

Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*

Bill Brown, *Building Manager*

Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator*

Nancy Stockford, *Parish Administrator/Financial Secretary*

Jesús Vargas, *Sexton*

Alan Lane, *Food Cupboard Coordinator*

Venkatesh Balasubramanian, *Digital Communications & Audio Visual Tech Manager*

CHURCH OFFICERS

Kathryn Barry, *President of the Corporation*

Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*

Jon Schwarz, *Moderator of the Board of Deacons*

Faith Perry, *Treasurer*