

Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



The Season of Pentecost Summer 2023

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant

July 9, 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: NCH 514

Over My Head

Over my head, I hear music in the air (x3)
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear singing in the air (x3)
There must be a God somewhere.

On the earth, I hear music everywhere (x3)
There must be a God somewhere.

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!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains two measures of music, each followed by a fermata. The lyrics 'A-men, we praise your name, O God!' are written below the first measure, and 'A-men we praise your name, O God!' is written below the second measure. The second staff also begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. It contains three measures of music, each followed by a fermata. The lyrics 'A-men, ba- wo.', 'A-men, ba- wo.', and 'A-men, we praise your name, O God!' are written below the first, second, and third measures respectively. The number '5' is written at the beginning of the first staff.

Reading from Scripture

Hebrew Bible Reading: Song of Solomon: 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved!

Look, they come,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Look, there she stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;

for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.”

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:16-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Child of God came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, God of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Holy One, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my God; and no one knows the Child except the Parent, and no one knows the Parent except the Child and anyone to whom the Child chooses to reveal. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

Sung Response

Amen, Bawo

Sermon

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn, that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing,
It finds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging,
Since Love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ringing;
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's – how can I keep from singing?

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 474, verses 1,2,1

I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me (x3)
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me (x3)
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me (x3)
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

* **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.

- 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

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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 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*

Jesús Vargas, *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*