

Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



The Season of Pentecost July 10, 2022

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant

Summer 2022

10:30 a.m.

The Season of Pentecost/ Ordinary Time

[ZOOM LINK: tinyurl.com/cotcworship](https://tinyurl.com/cotcworship)

Welcome, Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Introduction to Today's Music

Prelude

*Call To Worship

*Lighting of the Christ Light

*Opening Hymn NCH (black) 12

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God
that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word,
and then pronounced them good.
Oh, how your wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye:

If I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky!

On earth there's not a plant or flower
but makes your glories known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers
by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you
and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you,
O God, are present there.

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!

Readings from Scripture

Hebrew Bible: Psalm 82

God has taken place in the divine council;
and in the midst of the gods, holds judgment:
‘How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked?

Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.'

They have neither knowledge nor understanding,
they walk around in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

I say, 'You are gods,
children of the Most High, all of you;
nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.'^{*}
Rise up, O God, judge the earth;
for all the nations belong to you!

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."
But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the

robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

Sung Response

Amen, Bawo

Sermon

Courts n' Neighbors

Call to Offering

Online Giving Option: <http://www.cotcbos.org/give.html>

Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General.

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:** PH (blue) 407

Cuando el Pobre/ When a Poor One

1. When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers, when the thirsty water give unto us all, when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others, [Refrain] then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.

2. When at last all those who suffer find their comfort, when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness, when we love though hate at times seems all around us, [Refrain] then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.

3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing, when our lips can speak no words other than true, when we know that love for simple things is better, [Refrain] then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.

4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance, when we learn how to peace instead of war, when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor, [Refrain] then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Exchange of the Peace:**

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
Liturgist – Ron Lacey
Lector – Rachel Kirby
Ushers – Holly Humphreys and Evans Naquin
Digital Minister – Christine James

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 in person or over the chat in Zoom. The following are standard announcements for the summer.

JUBILEE HEAT PUMPS ADULT ED TODAY: Join us following worship today for a Climate Jubilee sponsored adult education discussion on low-impact, high efficiency heat pumps guided by Rev. Rob who has heated/ cooled his home for the past decade with heat pumps.

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 will be sending more up to date announcements via our “This Week at Covenant” email to the community. To receive our newsletters, see: cotcbos.org/this-week-at-covenant.html

WORKSHOP WITH WAMPANOAG HISTORIAN & EDUCATOR:

Saturday, July 23 | 2:00-5:00 p.m. ET | St Cecilia Parish Community Room
Join for an interactive workshop led by Aquinnah Wampanoag author and educator Linda Coombs to learn the history and life ways of our Native American neighbors. This workshop will take place in-person at Saint Cecilia. Co-sponsored by the Social & Racial Justice Ministry & MA Catholics for Indigenous Rights, space is limited to 25 participants. To register and for more information contact [Linden Jenkins](#).

SUMMER ROAD CLOSURES: Please be aware that Boston and Cambridge have several road races and other events that sometimes make getting to Covenant a little challenging, including Summer Open Newbury Street Sundays. We will do our best to keep you informed, but always good to check Boston road closures listings each week.

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 services (in-person and Zoom options). [Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/cotcworship](http://tinyurl.com/cotcworship)

- July 10, Rev. Rob preaching, Jubilee Adult Ed after worship: Heat Pumps
- July 17, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
- July 24, Rev. Rob preaching
- July 31, Shared Worship Burlington, Clinton, Newton Pres, ZOOM ONLY
- August 7, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion

- August 14, Guest Preacher Rev. Adam Isbitsky
- August 21, Reflection on the Word, Communion
- August 28, Rev. Joshua preaching

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

Tom: July 31

Rev. Joshua: July 28-August 5

Rev. Kate: July 24, 31

ZOOM ONLY SERVICES (Currently planned): July 31, August 28. Also note that in this age of climate change (occasionally dangerously hot sanctuaries), and pandemics (potentials for staff out sick), we retain the option to pivot to Zoom-only services from time to time should the need arise. If this happens, we will make an announcement by the Saturday prior to worship.

JULY 31 JOINT SERVICE WITH SIBLING CHURCHES: On July 31, we will join in worship with our neighbors from Burlington, Clinton, and Newton Presbyterian churches. The service will be on Zoom and in person at Burlington Presbyterian Church, at 10:30am, with PC(USA) Synod of the Northeast Transitional Leader, Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley, preaching. More info at burlingtonpres.org. Please note we will be using a *different Zoom link* than other Sundays: tinyurl.com/sharedsummerservice

REV. ROB'S SUMMER SABBATH: Continuing for a third year in a row, Rev. Rob will be taking a 4-week Summer Sabbath (August 1-August 28) for the purpose of spending more intentional time with his family that the week-to-week constancy of ministry doesn't regularly afford. This intentional time differs from a vacation, as two of these weeks Rob is taking as unpaid leave. During this Summer Sabbath, our Associate Pastor Rev. Joshua Lazard (Email: joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org, Cell: 617-680-5734) will be supporting our Deacons in providing any needed pastoral care/coverage, and helping to lead our weekly worship services. Please be in touch with Rob if you have any questions.
rob.mark@cotcbos.org

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: tinyurl.com/COTCeveningprayers. We may have some in-person prayers this summer, stay tuned for more information.

LIFE ALIVE is our COTC 20s30s40s young adult group. **LIFE ALIVE BRUNCHES** will meet on the following dates: **Saturday, June 25** at 11am; and on **Sunday, July 17** and **Sunday August 21** immediately following worship. If you have any questions or would like to join us, please email Rev. Joshua at joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org.

CYCE (Children & Youth Christian Education): If you're a family new to COTC, we are glad you are here! We welcome babies, children, and youth in our worship together. During the school year, we offer Christian education opportunities for children and youth of all ages. Our Sunday school has paused for the summer, and we will resume classes and reopen the nursery in the fall. To learn more about our CYCE programs, or so we can get to know you better, please email Rev. Kate at kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org

CHOIR & MUSIC MINISTRY: We have an amazing all-volunteer choir here at Covenant lead by our Minister of Music Tom Handel. Our choir gets the summer off. If you are interested in singing with us this coming fall, or if you play an instrument and would like to contribute to a special service at some point, please feel free to be in touch with Tom.

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.

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 July 24, 3:00pm Middlesex Fells with Syd Smith, park at the Flynn ice rink in Medford: [Sign up here](#)
- August – Jaunt on Your Own and send in a photo! We will also hold an adult ed in September to share our reflections on what this intentional jaunt soaking in God's Creation was like for you. More details TBA. *Email [Betty](#).*

WEEKLY CALENDAR Click [here](#) to view the weekly calendar of events.

Visitor or Newcomer? Welcome to Church of the Covenant!

We are glad you are here. Please let us know if there are ways we can help you connect to the church community. Learn more about the church by visiting our website at www.cotcbos.org.

Parking Bargain – Worshipers may park at the Back Bay Garage [Clarendon Street, between Boylston and St. James] on Sundays between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. 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.

Prayers of Celebration or Concern May Be Shared in the Red Book – At the rear of the Sanctuary is a red book where prayers that you wish to have spoken aloud during the Pastoral Prayer time may be written. The book will be available until the time of the offering.

Time of Greeting – after worship this morning, we hope that you will take a few minutes after going outside the sanctuary to connect with others worshipping with you, especially people you may not know as well.

Hearing Assisted Devices – speak with an usher if you would like to use these devices that work with or without a hearing aid. These devices are specifically designed to work only with our sound system. Please remember to return the device at the close of the service. Thank you!

Building Accessibility – our building includes an exterior ramp on Newbury Street and an elevator (in the Parish House part of the building) which allows access to the fellowship hall, meeting rooms, offices, and other parts of the building. We also have accessible all gender rest rooms. Please ask an usher to help you locate these resources.



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*