

# Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



## The Season of Pentecost Summer 2023

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



## Church of the Covenant

July 16, 2023

10:30 am

The Season of Pentecost/ Ordinary Time

Zoom link: [tinyurl.com/cotcworship](https://tinyurl.com/cotcworship)

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### Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

### Introduction to Today's Music

#### Prelude

#### \* Call To Worship

#### \* Opening Hymn: PH 376

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find that second rest;  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
 Let us all Thy life receive;  
 Suddenly return, and never,  
 Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
 Thee we would be always blessing,  
 Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
 Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
 Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
 Pure and spotless let us be;  
 Let us see Thy great salvation  
 Perfectly restored in Thee;  
 Changed from glory into glory,  
 Till in heaven we take our place,  
 Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
 Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

### 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!

## Scripture Readings

### **Gospel Reading** – Matthew 13:1-3a

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables...

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

### **Sung Response**

*Amen, Bawo*

### **Sermon**

“Carrying Your Voice”

### **Call to Offering**

### **Offertory**

### **\* Communion 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

### \* 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.

All God's children gonna eat together  
All God's children gonna eat together, some of these days.  
All God's children gonna eat together  
All God's children gonna eat together, 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,  
with 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

*(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.**

*Please be seated after the Prayer of Jesus.*

## Sharing of the Bread and Cup

### Post Communion Prayer

#### \* Closing Hymn: NCH 57

*O Holy Spirit, Root of Life*

*This hymn was written by Saint Hildegard of Bingen, 12<sup>th</sup> century.*

O Holy Spirit, root of life,  
creator, cleanser of all things,  
anoint our wounds; awaken us  
with lustrous movement of your wings.

Eternal vigor, saving one,  
you free us by your living Word,  
becoming flesh to wear our pain,  
and all creation is restored.

O Holy Wisdom, soaring power,  
encompass us with wings unfurled,  
and carry us, encircling all,  
above, below and through the world.

#### \* 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](https://cotcbos.org/this-week-at-covenant.html)

**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](https://cotcbos.org).



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



**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 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, *Parish Administrator / Financial Secretary*  
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*