

Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



The Season of Pentecost Summer 2023

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant

July 23, 2023

10:30 am

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) 464

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing foundation,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus
 Which the morning stars began;
 Love divine is reigning o'er us,
 Joining all in heaven's plan.
 Ever singing, march we onward,
 Victors in the midst of strife,
 Joyful music leads us sunward
 In the triumph song of life.

*** 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

New Testament Reading – Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel Reading – Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in their field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the servants of the householder came and said to them, ‘Farmer, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ They answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But the farmer replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, ‘Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Human One; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Human One will send angels, and they will collect out of the kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Creator. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

Sung Response

Amen, Bawo

Sermon

Sermon 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 heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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) 458**

I've Got a Feeling

I've got a feeling, everything's gonna be alright, oh-oh-oh(x3)

Be alright, be alright, be alright.

Jesus already told me, everything's gonna be alright, oh-oh-oh(x3)

Be alright, be alright, be alright.

The Spirit has confirmed it, everything's gonna be alright, oh-oh-oh(x3)

Be alright, be alright, be alright.

*** 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

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.



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.

- 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

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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, *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*