

Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



The Season of Pentecost Summer 2023

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant

July 30, 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 NCH (black) 42

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing
the triumphs of God's grace!

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

My gracious Savior and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease
Is music in the sinner's ears,
is life, and health, and peace!

Glory to God, and love and praise
be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age,
the church in earth and heaven.

* 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

Hebrew Bible Reading – Exodus 16:2-5, 31, 35

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.”

The Israelites called it manna; it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a habitable land; they ate manna, until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

New Testament Reading – Romans 8:31-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? God who did not withhold an only Child but gave this child up for all of us, how will God not also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through Christ who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

One: God is still speaking, the word of God,

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response

Amen, Bawo

Sermon / Reflection on the Word

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) 23

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows,
Are more felt than in God's heaven,
There's no place where earthly failings,
Have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving,
For the goodness of our God.

*** Charge and Benediction**

*** Exchange of the Peace:**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
Many: **And also with you.**

TODAY WE WELCOME OUR GUEST PREACHER

J.J. Martinez is a graduate student at the Boston University School of Theology pursuing a Master of Divinity on the pastoral ministry track. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from The University of Texas at El Paso, graduating summa cum laude with honors. He will pursue a PhD after graduating. J.J. is a declared candidate for ordination in the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church and hopes to pastor once he completes his education.

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.

- 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
- September 3, Rev. Rob Mark preaching, Communion



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*