

# Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



## The Season of Pentecost Summer 2023

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



## Church of the Covenant

August 13, 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 (blue) 483

*Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

Sing praise to God, who reigns above,  
The God of all creation,  
The God of power, the God of love,  
The God of our salvation;  
With healing balm my soul is filled,  
And every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made  
God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
By morning glow or evening shade  
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;  
Within the kingdom of God's might,  
Lo! all is just and all is right:  
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,  
But through all grief distressing,  
An ever present help and stay,  
Our peace and joy and blessing;  
As with a mother's tender hand,  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!

Thus, all my gladsome way along,  
I sing aloud Thy praises  
That all may hear the grateful song  
My voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,  
Both soul and body bear your part:  
To God all praise and glory!

### \* 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 – Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

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 PH (blue) 538**

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;  
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Thy love possessing,  
Triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us,  
Traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration  
For Thy gospel's joyful sound;  
May the fruits of Thy salvation  
In our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, Ever faithful  
To the truth may we be found.

So that when Thy love shall call us,  
Savior, from the world away,  
Let no fear of death appall us,  
Glad Thy summons to obey.  
May we ever, May we ever  
Reign with Thee in endless day.

**\* 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.

- 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

**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*