

Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



The Season of Pentecost Summer 2022

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant

August 14, 2022

10:30 a.m.

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) 442

I'm Pressing on the Upward Way

I'm pressing on the upward way,
new heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"O plant me, God, on higher ground."

Refrain: O lift me up, and I shall be by faith in heaven eternally,
A higher plane than I have found, O plant me, God, on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay
where doubts arise and fear dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
my prayer, my aim is higher ground.

Refrain

I want to live beyond the world,
though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught a joyful sound,
the song of saints on higher ground.

Refrain

I want to scale the utmost height,
and catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heaven I've found,
"God, lead me on to higher ground."
Refrain

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!

Reading from Scripture: Luke 12:49-58

“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of

earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?
“And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? Thus, when you go with your accuser before a magistrate, on the way make an effort to settle the case, or you may be dragged before the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you in prison.

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) 47**

O Christ Jesus, Sent from Heaven

O Christ Jesus, sent from heaven, Love Eternal, crucified,
welcome Savior, mission bearing, dwell among us, now reside.
Alleluia! Way of Anguish, sow your peace, with us abide

O Christ Jesus, our salvation, Shepherd kind, life's Bread and Wine,
Word Made Flesh, God's Blessed Servant, washing feet shows your design.
Alleluia! Living Water, slake our hearts with grace divine

O Christ Jesus, Father, Mother, Spirit, Triune Source of all,
Claim our wounded, halting witness; we surrender to your thrall.
Alleluia! Truth Incarnate, stir us with your servant call.

O Christ Jesus, preached down ages, in the womb of God begun,
pray restore your broken Body, born when Calvary's work was done.
Alleluia! Life for Others, hear our plea: "May all be one!"

*** 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 in person or over the chat in Zoom. The following are standard announcements for the summer. To see this week's detailed announcements, or sign up to receive our newsletters, see: cotcbos.org/this-week-at-covenant.html

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 the City of 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](#)

- June 26, Rev. Rob preaching
- July 3, Reflection on the Word, Communion, ZOOM ONLY
- 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 with Burlington, Clinton & Newton Presbyterian, 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, ZOOM ONLY

ZOOM ONLY SERVICES (Currently planned): July 3, 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: <http://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

STAFF VACATIONS: Current schedule for staff vacations based on Sundays:
Tom: June 26, July 31

Rev. Joshua: July 28-August 5

Rev. Kate: July 3, 24, 31

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](#). 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.

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 June 26, 1:30pm Arboretum with Nancy Stockford & Mark Huston: [Sign up here](#)
- Sunday July 24, 3:00pm Middlesex Fells with Syd Smith, park at the Flynn ice

rink in Medford: [Sign up here](#)

- *Want to add a jaunt?? Email [Betty](#) and we'll add it to the list!*

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.

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. To sign up for email updates about worship services and other events in our community, please fill out a visitor's card in your pew or email us at info@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 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*