

Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



The Season of Pentecost Summer 2023

Presbyterian Church (USA)/United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant

August 20, 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) 347

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound! (x 2)

Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.

Refrain

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!

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!

Scripture Readings

Hebrew Bible Reading – Psalms 133: 1-3

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 15: 21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

*** 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.**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Post Communion Prayer

* Closing Hymn NCH (black) 349

I Come With Joy

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me (x 2)

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread. (x 2)

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends. (x 2)

And thus we meet, and better know,
the Presence ever near,
and join our hearts and sing with joy,
that Christ is risen here. (x 2)

Together met, together bound
in friendship we will stay,
and go with joy, to love the world
and live the way we pray. (x 2)

* Charge and Benediction

* Exchange of the Peace:

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

OUR GUEST PREACHER TODAY

Sierra Mink moved to Boston in 2019 after graduating with a Philosophy degree from Santa Clara University in California to do a year of service through the Presbyterian Church (USA) at Eliot Presbyterian Church in Lowell, Massachusetts. After this first year in the Boston area, she discerned a desire to continue in her vocation and education in nonprofit organizations. Sierra is at common cathedral as the Manager of Partnerships & Development and has earned her Master's degree in Nonprofit Management from Northeastern University and a certificate in Community Leadership and Social Change through the Institute for Nonprofit Practice. Her passion of being present to people brought her to Boston and it is why she is staying, deepening faith and friendships, in the Boston area.

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.

- 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*