

# Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



## The Season of Pentecost August 21, 2022

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



## Church of the Covenant

August 21, 2022

10:30 a.m.

The Season of Pentecost/ Ordinary Time

Zoom link: [tinyurl.com/cotcworship](https://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) 356

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
 Daily I'm constrained to be!  
 Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
 Bind my wandering heart to Thee:  
 Prone to wander, Lord, I felt it,  
 Prone to leave the God I love;  
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
 Seal it for Thy courts above.

## 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!

## Readings from Scripture

### Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 103:1-8

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
 bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits—  
 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,  
 who redeems your life from the Pit,  
 who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
 who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.  
God made known God's ways to Moses,  
    God's acts to the people of Israel.  
The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
    slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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**

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.**

*Please be seated after the Prayer of Jesus.*

## **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**\* Closing Hymn: NCH (black) 379**

*Come, We Who Love God's Name*

Come, we who love God's name, and let our joys be known;  
Together God's great love proclaim, and thus surround the throne.

Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;  
But we our thanks and praise will bring for love so deep and broad.

God's grace on earth is found, the seeds of glory sown;  
Celestial fruits on earthly ground from faith and hope have grown.

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets  
Before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;  
We're traveling though Emmanuel's ground, to greater worlds on high.

## \* 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.

### **DURING THE SUMMER WE WILL USE ONE STANDARD BULLETIN:**

Hymns and other announcements will be shared during the service. Please help us save paper and return this bulletin to the back of the sanctuary following the conclusion of worship! Each week, we will be sending more up to date announcements via our "This Week at Covenant" email to the community. To receive our newsletters, see: [cotcbos.org/this-week-at-covenant.html](http://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**

1. August 21, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
2. August 28, Reflection on the Word, 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

1. Sunday June 26, 1:30pm Arboretum with Nancy Stockford & Mark Huston: [Sign up here](#)
2. Sunday July 24, 3:00pm Middlesex Fells with Syd Smith, park at the Flynn ice rink in Medford: [Sign up here](#)
3. *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](http://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](mailto: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](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 / 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*