

# Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



## The Season of Pentecost Summer 2023

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



## Church of the Covenant

August 27, 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 NCH (black) 551

*Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior*

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry,  
While on others you are calling, Do not pass me by.

*Refrain:*

Savior, Savior, Hear my humble cry;

While on others you are calling, Do not pass me by.

Let me at a throne of mercy, find a sweet relief;

Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief. *Refrain*

Trusting only in your merit, would I seek your face;

Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by your grace. *Refrain*

Be the Spring of all my comfort, more than life to me,

Not just here on earth beside me, but eternally. *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!

The musical notation is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

### Scripture Readings

#### Hebrew Bible Reading – Psalm 27:1-5, 13-14

The Lord *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord *is* the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though a host may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I *will be* confident.

One thing I have desired of the Lord, and that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in God's temple. For in the time of trouble God shall hide me in God's pavilion; in the secret place of God's tabernacle, God shall hide me; the Almighty shall set me high upon a rock.

*I had fainted*, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and God shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord.

## **New Testament Reading – 2 Peter 3:8-13**

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. God in heaven is not slow about their promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Almighty will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be destroyed with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be revealed.

Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and destroyed and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with God's promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

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) 438

*When Peace, Like a River*

When peace, like a river, upholds me each day,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,  
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

*Refrain:*

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,  
Let this blessed assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has paid life and blood for my soul! *Refrain*

My sin—oh, the bliss of the glorious thought—  
My sin—not in part, but the whole—  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,  
When clouds are rolled back as a scroll;  
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear,  
“even so”—it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

### \* 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 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*