

Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



The Season of Pentecost Summer 2023

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant

September 3, 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) 25

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream, fades at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!

* 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 – Exodus 2:23-3:1-15

After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and God remembered the covenant with Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Keturah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Rachel, and Leah. God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of GOD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When GOD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then God said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” God said further, “I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Keturah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Rachel, and Leah.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then GOD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” God said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” God said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The HOLY ONE, the God of your ancestors, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.”

New Testament Reading – Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve God. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says

God.” No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

One: God is still speaking, the word of God,
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response

Amen, Bawo

Sermon

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 PH (blue) 354**

Guide My Feet (verses 1-4)

Guide my feet while I run this race (3 times)
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand while I run this race (3 times)
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Stand by me while I run this race (3 times)
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

I'm Your child while I run this race (3 times)
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

*** 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

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.

- September 3, Rev. Rob Mark preaching, Communion
- September 10, Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching, All-Church Welcome Back Potluck



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*