

# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



**The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
*Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ*  
ZOOM LINK ([click here](#))



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September 18, 2022, 10:30 am

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Welcome and thank you for worshipping together for this “hybrid” service where some will be in the sanctuary of their homes, and some in the sanctuary at 67 Newbury Street. For those joining online, we begin on Zoom at the above link. Please keep your mic muted during the service. The full service is recorded and later posted online.

If you would like a prayer of Celebration or Concern to be prayed aloud today, and would prefer not to share it yourself with the handheld mic, please take a moment at anytime to write it into the Red Book at the back of the sanctuary. For those online, you will be invited to place a prayer in the chat and we will share aloud.

*\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

**Prelude**

*Prelude in f minor, WTC I*

J.S. Bach

**Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Divine Parent, you feel what we feel.

**Many: Our joys and our pains are yours too.**

One: Divine Healer, you delight in our wholeness.

**Many: You are the balm for our heavy-laden hearts and souls.**

One: Giver of life, you are able to renew us

**Many: We open ourselves to you, have your way within us.**

**\*Kindling the Christ Light**

**\*Opening Hymn NCH 489**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;  
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad,  
And there I found a resting place, where Jesus made me glad!

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give,  
The living water, thirsty one, draw near, and drink, and live.”

I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I am redeemed.

### **Prayer for Grounding in God’s Grace**

**Many:**     **Source of Wholeness, we confess that sometimes our goals don’t align with yours, and we get lost. At times, we have pursued busy-ness, production, and drowned ourselves in work instead of trusting and following you, who are the source of all. We know that you are the One who can provide us rest and restoration of our souls, and we turn ourselves towards you. You are steadfast in your dispensation of love and peace. Let us be light and love to others as you are to us.**

### **Listening to God in Silent Prayer**

#### **Assurance of God’s Grace**

**One:**     The Divine one is steadfast in love, peace, and rest. Know that we are called and empowered to do the same. In a chaotic world, we can know peace, and in a chaotic world, we can still find rest. May God’s grace be a balm for us, and may we be a balm to and for others. Ever seeking wholeness and restoration:

**Many:**     **In Jesus Christ we are made whole. Alleluia! Amen!**

### **Sung Response**

*Over My Head*

Over my head, I hear music in the air;  
Over my head, I hear music in the air;  
Over my head, I hear music in the air;  
There must be a God somewhere.

## Readings from Scripture

### **Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Reading** – Genesis 2:2-3

By the seventh day God had finished the work they had been doing; so on the seventh day they rested from all their work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it they rested from all the work of creating that they had done.

### **Gospel Lesson** – Matthew 11:25-26, 28-29

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Abba, God of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Abba, for this is what you were pleased to do.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

### **New Testament Reading** – Revelation 8:1

When one of the Elders opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

One: God is still speaking, the word of God,

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

## Sung Response

*Over My Head*

## Sermon

“We’ll See You At the Finish Line”

## Call to Offering

Online Giving Option: <http://www.cotcbos.org/give.html>

*Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General.*

## Offertory

*Prelude in E Major, WTC I*

J.S. Bach

## **\*Doxology**

*Tune: Old Hundredth*

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**

### **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 473**

*Blessed Assurance*

#### *Verse 1*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchased of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's  
blood.

#### *Refrain*

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

#### *Verse 2*

Perfect submission, perfect delight! Vision of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

#### *Refrain*

*Verse 3*

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I am Savior am happy and blessed;  
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with God's goodness, lost in  
Christ's love. *Refrain*

### **\*Charge and Benediction**

### **\*Exchange of the Peace**

*(Please exchange greetings of Christ's peace and reconciliation)*

**One:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**Many:** **And also with you.**

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### **Worship Participants**

**Preacher** – Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

**Sabbath Supply Minister of Music** – Kate Salfelder

**Liturgist** – Ron Lacey & Rev. Rob Mark

**Lector** – Ron Lacey

**Digital Minister** – AV Team & Rev. Rob Mark

**Audio-Visual Techs** – Abhishek John, Jon Schwarz

**Ushers** – Holly Humphreys, Denice Thornhill

**WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE COVENANT!** We are so glad to have you worshipping with us today! If you are new to our community, we hope you will feel at home and welcomed during this service. If you have any questions about who we are as a community of faith, please reach out to an usher in person or our Digital Minister in the chat.

**NEW TO CHURCH?** We are so grateful you have joined us this morning. We recognize it takes extra energy to enter a new place, so we are grateful for your choice this morning to join us! If you'd like to connect with us further, one simple step would be to fill out a New Visitor Card found either in the pew back in front of you, or over by the side desk at the back of the sanctuary. These cards can then be placed in the offering plate as your contribution today – and church leadership will then be in touch as a follow-up. Please feel at home!

**WELCOME CHILDREN & YOUTH!!** We warmly welcome all young people and their families into our journey together. If you're a family new to COTC, we are glad you are here! Children and youth share time together downstairs during the length of our worship service in the sanctuary. Babies, children, and youth are also always welcome to remain in worship. Families can connect with our Children & Youth Christian Education (CYCE) staff and volunteers by going to the back of the sanctuary and then down the stairs into our lower fellowship hall called Bates Hall (also accessible by elevator – please ask an usher for directions). Questions? Please contact Rev. Kate Carlisle, CYCE Coordinator: [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org)

**COVENANT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP TODAY.** The next COTC book discussion will resume **today, September 18, at 5 PM** via Zoom. We will be discussing *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. As always, you are welcome to join us whether or not you have ever come to a Covenant book discussion before, and whether or not you have read the book. Ask Barbara if you have any questions: [barbarakdarling@yahoo.com](mailto:barbarakdarling@yahoo.com). [Here's the Zoom link.](#)

**UPCOMING 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 for each service.

1. Sunday, September 18, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
2. Sunday, September 25, New Members Joining Sunday, Reflection on the Word
3. Sunday, October 2, All Ages Service for World Communion Sunday
4. Sunday, October 9, Rev. Dr. So Jung Kim preaching, ZOOM ONLY

**LIFE ALIVE SEPTEMBER BRUNCH CANCELED.** COTC's young adult community usually meets on the third Sunday of the month for a brunch fellowship immediately following worship service. However, due to the annual retreat on the previous day, we are cancelling the after-church brunch this Sunday, September 18th.

**VERNAL EQUINOX SUNSET EVENSONG: Thursday, September 22, 6:00-7:00pm** Join our Climate Jubilee Team as they host this simple outdoor prayer gathering along the sacred shores of the Quinobequin (settler named Charles) River to give thanks to God for the seasons and profound wonder and peace of God's natural world, as we together take in the sun set. [RSVP HERE – thanks!](#)

**ALL CHURCH POTLUCK.** Following on the success of our September potluck, we are planning another potluck following worship on **Sunday, October 2** on the Berkeley Street steps. Please bring a dish with serving spoon to share with a note describing the ingredients. Directly following the potluck please join us for our adult ed on the state of our nation in the light of the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

**CLIMATE JUBILEE JAUNT UPDATES.** Our Climate Jubilee Team has been encouraging us to get out into the beauty of God's natural world and take joy in it as it is now - knowing that even as the climate is changing things - there is still profound joy and lessons for us to learn from being outside. helping us 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. We have these invitations this fall:

- **DIY JAUNT:** Between now and Oct 9 we invite you to go outside on your own or with friends/ family to enjoy being in God's Creation. Employ all of your senses on your DIY Jubilee Jaunt and record what you see, hear, smell, feel and taste either in your memory, with photos on your phone, or by writing what you experience in a journal. Climate Jubilee will host an Adult CE gathering on Sunday, October 9 on ZOOM (right after our ZOOM ONLY worship) so we can share our DIY expeditions with one another. If you've taken a jaunt this summer, or if you do soon, it's not too late to share! [\*Here is the link to submit your photo and SHORT reflection/ observations/ thoughts.\*](#)
- **Sunday October 9, 2:30pm** 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!*

**LIFE ALIVE APPLE PICKING TRIP.** Save the date for immediately following worship service on **Sunday, October 18**, Trudi Veldman will be hosting Life Alive for a fall apple-picking outing. More information is soon to come.

**SAVE THE DATE: ALL CHURCH DAY RETREAT. Saturday, Oct. 29, 9:30am-4:30pm, Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham, MA.** Please mark your calendars to join us for our annual all-church retreat as we return once again to the sacred setting at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham (2012-2013) where we will get to enjoy a Saturday together to take in the blessings of God's nature just a few miles from the ocean, surrounded by sacred pines and cedars and the fellowship of our community. "Second" breakfast and lunch will be provided. Stay tuned for registrations to begin in the coming week or so.

**OPEN NEWBURY STREET CONTINUES.** Newbury Street between Berkeley St. and Mass. Ave. will be closed to vehicles, and open to pedestrian traffic, on **Sundays from August 21-September 25.** Find out more [here](#). Increased traffic throughout the region is also expected due to the Orange Line shutdown. Please keep this in mind when planning travel to and from COTC.

**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*.

**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.

**LOOKING FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH VOLUNTEERS.** We are currently gifted with a number of children in our community! How wonderful is this! It is our goal to be able to offer loving and stimulating environments and programs to all of them. We have a group of infants to toddlers, a couple of younger Godly Play-aged children, older Godly Play children, potentially a 10-13 year old group, and definitely a 14 year old group of youth. Do you have interest or questions about being involved in any way at all with children or youth? This might be an occasional presence in the nursery, or a background person in a children or youth class, or something more often or more directly involved. Please consider if this calls to you at all, and reach out to Kate Carlisle ([kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org)), Kathy Bull, Karen Henry, or Diane Lauber. No commitment to ask us about this! We are also advertising for a paid nursery care provider, so we encourage you to reach out if you have any interest for yourself or someone you know. We will pass along the listing soon.

**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 & Jesús Vargas, *Sunday Sextons*  
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*