

# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



**The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
*Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ*  
ZOOM LINK ([click here](#))



**Church of the Covenant**  
**The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
September 25, 2022, 10:30 am

---

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**

## **Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

## **\*Call to Worship**

One: Creative God, for the blank canvas of this day before us, a unique masterpiece yet to be painted,

Many: **We say, thank you.**

One: Like a dry brush to colored acrylic,

Many: **May we soak in your creativity so we can be a part of your vitality for the world today.**

## **\*Kindling the Christ Light**

## **\* Opening Hymn: PH (blue) 313**

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

Come down, O Love divine, seek out this soul of mine  
And visit it with Your own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let Your glorious light, shine ever on my sight;  
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long  
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
For none can guess God's grace, till Love create a place  
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

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

**Many:** Love Divine, we open ourselves to you now in humility and honesty. We confess that sometimes we don't live as we wish. We know the bitterness of promises broken; regrets realized; harsh words spoken; relationships strained; hopes clouded; climates changed. And we long to make things right. We long to be made whole. We know you can help us – we know you can restore us. Hear us, and help us, O God.

**One:** Let us now open ourselves to God in silent prayer...

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

#### **Assurance of God's Grace**

**One:** As people longing for justice and liberation, let us remember that the God who created all things, is the God who loves all things. In that love, there is restoration. In that love, there is total forgiveness. Therefore, as people loved so that we can love, let us celebrate together:

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

## Sung Response

## Over My Head

*Refrain*

O-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; there must be a God some - where.

*Fine*

## Reading from Scripture

### Gospel Reading – Luke 16:19-31

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up

and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my family’s house-for I have five siblings-that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection on the Word**

## **Sung Response**

*Over My Head*

## **New Members Welcoming** – Sally Pomeroy

## **Call to Offering**

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

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

## **Offertory**

## **\*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

**\*Closing 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 feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for thy courts above.

**\*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.**

---

## **Worship Participants**

**Liturgists** – Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard & Rev. Rob Mark

**Lector** – Trudi Veldman

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

**Digital Minister** – Christine James

**Audio-Visual Tech** – Abhishek John

**Usher** – 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 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)

**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.

- Sunday, October 2, All Ages Service for World Communion Sunday
- Sunday, October 9, Rev. Dr. So Jung Kim preaching, ZOOM ONLY
- Sunday, October 16, Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching, Communion

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.** Join us next week for our all-ages service World Communion Sunday, when we gather at the table with our siblings in Christ around the world and across time and space. Our children, youth, families, and teachers will take leadership roles in the service, from sharing special music to baking our Communion bread. We invite you to bring a small cup, mug, jar, or other vessel, one per person, for our celebration of Holy Communion, and for the potluck afterward.

**WORLDWIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY SPECIAL OFFERING.** On October 2, Worldwide Communion Sunday, we will collect the Neighbors in Need Offering (UCC) and the Peace and Global Witness Offering (PCUSA). The UCC's Neighbors in Need Offering this year focuses on economic justice. One-third of the Neighbors in Need offering supports [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

The PCUSA's Peace & Global Witness Offering addresses systemic conflict and injustice across the world and supports promoting the peace of Christ around the world. 25% of the PCUSA half of the offering will go to support Cameroonian peacemaker Rev. Nta William Nche (who is visiting the Boston Presbytery this October!) The rest goes to PCUSA peacemaking efforts around the world.

**ALL CHURCH POTLUCK & ADULT ED.** 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, 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\*](#)

**LIFE ALIVE APPLE PICKING TRIP.** We have an active 20s30s40s group that meets monthly for activities and fellowship. 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. If you'd like more information about our young adults group please contact Rev. Joshua: [joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org)

**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\*](#). Please keep this in mind when planning travel to and from COTC.

**MUSICAL PSALMS EVENT AT OLD SOUTH.** **Saturday, October 22, at 2:00pm**, a special free event will take place at Old South. This unique interactive event uses live musical performances as a springboard for discussion about Scripture and faith. Participants gather to hear world-premiere performances of brand-new musical compositions inspired by the psalms, then join each other in conversation about the ways these pieces help us experience and understand Scripture. For more info: [deus-ex-musica.com/i-will-lift-my-eyes](http://deus-ex-musica.com/i-will-lift-my-eyes)

**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.

**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 variety of age groups from babies to 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. You can find that job listing [on our website](#).

**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*