

# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



## The Third Sunday in Epiphany

*Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ*

**[ZOOM LINK \(click here\)](#)**



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The Third Sunday in Epiphany

January 22, 2023, 10:30 am

**ZOOM LINK:** [tinyurl.com/cotcworship](https://tinyurl.com/cotcworship)

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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, please keep your mic muted during the service. The full service is recorded and later posted online

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

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**Prelude**

*Preamble*

Louis Vierne

## Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

## \* Call to Worship

(inspired by Psalm 27)

One: God is our light and liberation; whom shall we fear?

Many: **God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble, and our hope and joy on the days of celebration!**

One: Day after day, we seek the Holy One’s face and the assurance of God’s holy love.

Many: **Yes, I shall see the goodness of God in the land of the living.**

One: Wait for God; be strong, and let your heart take courage.

Many: **That we may live in God’s presence all the days of our life, and never cease to behold the beauty of the Holy One.**

## \*Opening Hymn: PH (blue) 376

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find that second rest;  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory, 'Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## **Kindling the Christ Light**

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

**Many: O God, our light and liberation, we turn to you.**

**When we grow weary with hurt, fill us with your comforting Spirit.**

**When we wander from your presence, lead us back to your side.**

**When fears overcome us, refresh us with new reasons to hope.**

**When divisions grow between us, help us build new lines of trust.**

**Redirect us, restore us, renew us we pray, all in the grace of Christ.**

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

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

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

**One:** The burden of following Jesus is a yoke that is shared and easy and light. The path of following Jesus is a light that illumines places of deep unknown. God has come to us in Jesus to cast off all the nets that bind us and to bring us into healing and wholeness within and without. Therefore let us celebrate:

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

**\* Sung Response:** NCH (black) 2

*Glory, Glory*

Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down (x 2)

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-23**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles —  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection on the Word**

**Sung Response:** NCH (black) 2

*Glory, Glory*

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down (x 2)

## **Call to Offering**

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

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

**Offertory**

*Andante Sostenuto from Gothic Symphony*

Charles-Marie Widor

**\* 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**

**\* Hymn:** NCH (black) 173

*You Have Come down to the Lakeshore*

You have come down to the lakeshore  
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
But only asking for me to follow.

*Refrain:*

*O Jesus, you have looked in my eyes;  
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
now with you I will seek other seas.*

You know full well my possessions.  
Neither treasure no weapons for conquest,  
Just these my fishnets and will for working. *Refrain*

You need my hands, my exhaustion,  
working love for the rest of the weary –  
A love that's willing to go on loving. *Refrain*

You who have fished other waters;  
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:  
As loving Friend, you have come to call me. *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

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Liturgists** – Rev. Rob Mark, Rev. Joshua Lazard

**Lector** – Debbie Howland

**Ushers** – Denice Thornhill, Anne Crane

**Audio-Visual Tech Team** – Jon Schwarz, Abhishek John

**Digital Minister** – Christine James

**Covenant Choir**

**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.

**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, January 22, Reflection on the Word
- Sunday, January 29, Rev. Joshua preaching, Denominational Meetings
- Sunday, February 5, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion, Annual Meeting
- Sunday, February 12, Winter Walk! Worship in the streets this day.

**THE DENOMINATIONAL MEETINGS** of the Central Congregational Society and the First Presbyterian Society will be held on **January 29, 2023 at 11:50 am**, following worship (hybrid) for the purpose of electing the nominees – Linda Pursley (UCC) and Sharon Wright (PCUSA) – to serve on the Nominating Committee for two years in the class of 2024.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Our Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, February 5, 2023** following worship.

**IMAGINE WHAT'S NEXT.** Immediately following worship next **Sunday, January 29, 2023**, newcomers to Life Alive are invited to a free pizza lunch forum with the pastors. This will be an opportunity to discuss who we are as a church and for young adults to imagine what's next in their lives. PLEASE RSVP: [forms.gle/4Ykv7SNg5fG25zQm9](https://forms.gle/4Ykv7SNg5fG25zQm9)

**WORSHIP IN THE STREETS, [Boston's Winter Walk](#).** Our worship service on Sunday, February 12 will be a bit different than usual. We will join in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston Winter Walk, as we walk 2 miles in shoulder-to-shoulder solidarity with those experiencing homelessness in our city, and re-commit ourselves to the prayerful work of housing justice. There will be 3 options: to join the walk in person at 9am; to join the walk virtually on your own; or to join in a virtual "prayer walk" at home. We are then invited to join Women's Lunch Place for a pancake brunch back in Bates Hall! More details on how to register as part of COTC coming.

**CLIMATE JUBILEE ALL CHURCH BOOK DISCUSSION:** Join us on **Sunday February 19, 12pm** following worship for a hybrid book discussion on Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass* ([indiebound.org/book/9781571313560](https://indiebound.org/book/9781571313560)). We ask you to avoid buying from Amazon.com and instead [use this link](#) to find a local bookstore.

**LIFE ALIVE MINISTRY.** Our young adults (aka "Life Alive") enjoy a robust fellowship and community that gathers monthly for brunches and weekly for prayers. Want to join us or have questions? Email Rev. Joshua at [joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org).

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS.** Our weekly morning Bible Study is each Wednesday morning on Zoom at 9:15am. We are studying the Gospel of Matthew. 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).

**EPIPHANY EVENING PRAYERS 6-6:30pm.** Join us for our weekly Wednesday evening prayers with intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms & sharing of prayers with our siblings from Newton Presbyterian *on Zoom*.

**HYMNS STREAMED** with permission under One License #A-741135

**WEEKLY CALENDAR** Click here to view the weekly calendar of events.



**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 and gender identities 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*  
Kelsie Lawhorn, *Childcare 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*