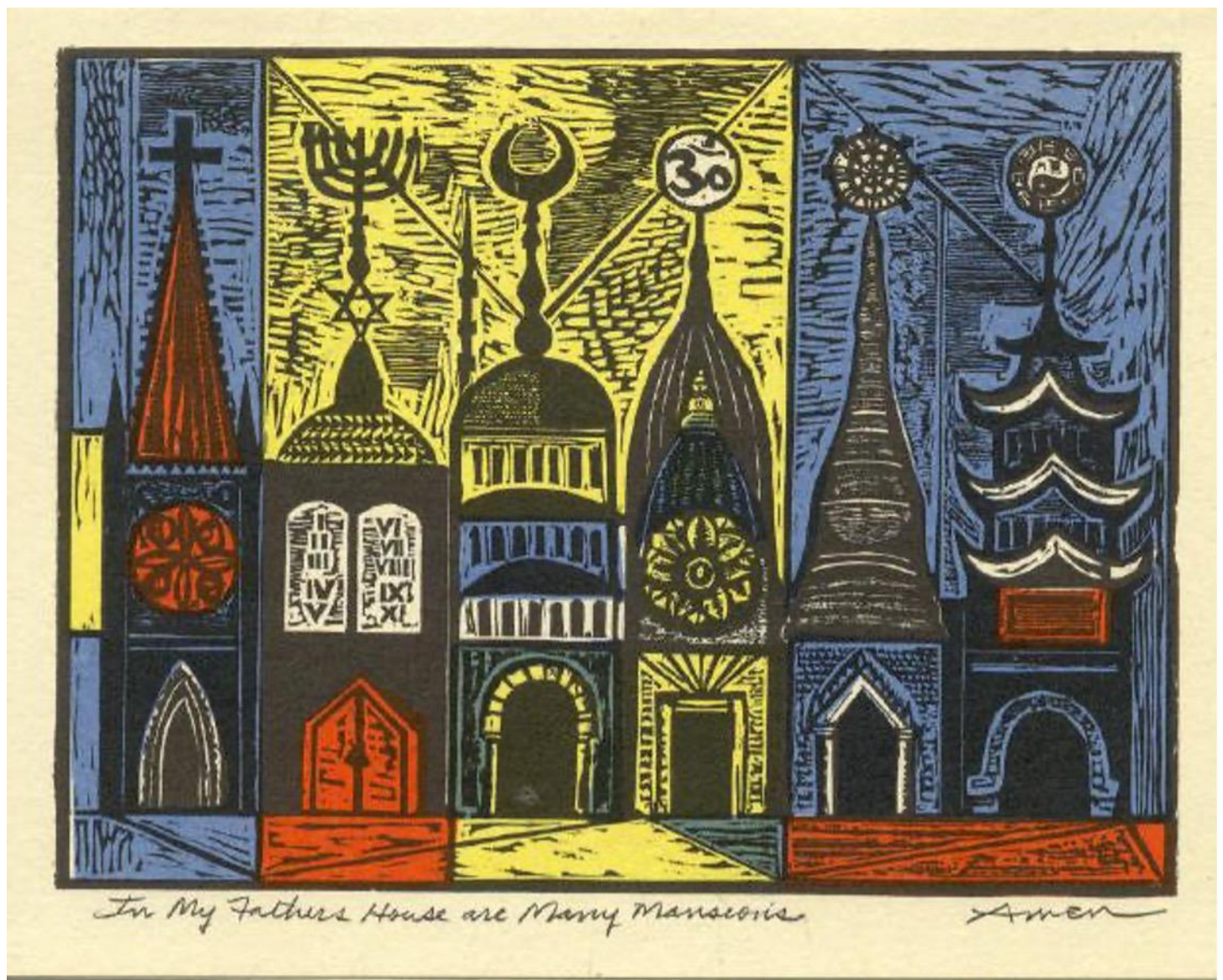


# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 15, 2023**

*Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ*  
[ZOOM LINK \(click here\)](#)



**Church of the Covenant**  
**The 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

October 15, 2023, 10:30 am

[Zoom Link](#)

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Welcome and thank you for worshipping together for this “hybrid” service where some will be in the sanctuary at 67 Newbury Street, and some in the sanctuary of places far and near. For those joining online, we begin on Zoom at the above link. Please keep your mic muted during the service.

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

**Prelude**

*Prelude from Cello Suite in C*

J.S. Bach

**Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

**\* Call to Worship**

One: Look around at this wondrous world!

Many: **God’s mighty acts in creation are magnificent!**

One: Look around at the diversity of God’s people!

Many: **Diversity is to be celebrated for we have much to learn from each other.**

One: Come, let us offer praise and prayer to God.

Many: **Let us celebrate all God’s goodness, for even in the midst of the horrible storm, God is with us.**

**\* Kindling the Christ Light**

One: The light of Christ,

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

**\* Opening Hymn NCH (black) 24**

*The God of Abraham and Sarah Praise*

The God of Abraham praise, all praises to God’s name,

Who was and is and is to be, fore’er the same!

The one eternal God, before what now appears;

The First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!

God's spirit freely flows, high surging where it will;  
God spoke of old in prophet's word; that word speaks still.  
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand  
Deep written on the human heart, in every land.

God has eternal life implanted in the soul;  
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.  
All praise the living God! Extol that hallowed name,  
Who was, and is, and ever shall be still the same!

The God of Sarah praise, all praises to God's name,  
Who was and is and is to be, fore'er the same!  
The one eternal God, before what now appears;  
The First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!

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

**Many:** God of infinite forgiveness, we implore you this day to forgive those many times in which we have turned our backs on you by turning away from the needs of the voiceless, the hopeless, the helpless. We let ourselves get distracted by schedules and activities which drain us of energy and enthusiasm. Remind us, O God, that we may again feel the exciting challenge of being your people. Open our hearts and minds to see the abundance that surrounds us. Heal our wounds of indifference and apathy; bring us together in harmony and joy to serve you and your creation with peace, justice, and hope.

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

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

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

**One:** Feel the powerful warmth of God's love for you! God is with you, healing and restoring your lives and bringing you peace. This is the good news from our persistent and patient God. Therefore let us rejoice together:

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

## Response

*The Lone, Wild Bird*

Henry Richard McFadyen

(chosen in memory of beloved Kay Carleton, who sang this occasionally in worship)  
(please remain seated)

## Readings from Scripture

### Hebrew Bible Reading – Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

God makes me to lie down in green pastures;

She leads me beside the still waters.

They restore my soul;

The Almighty leads me in the paths of righteousness

For their name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### New Testament Reading – Philippians 4:1-13

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in God in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in God. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. God is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any  
excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.  
Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and  
seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me.  
Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not  
saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the  
circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have  
plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation,  
whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this  
through the One who gives me strength.

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

**Response** *The Lone, Wild Bird* Henry Richard McFadyen

**Sermon** “When Enough is Enough”

**Moment for Generosity**

**Call to Offering**

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

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

**Offertory** *Courante from Cello Suite in C* J.S. Bach

**\* Communion Doxology** *Tune: Old Hundredth*

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 & Concerns

One: God, in your grace,  
Many: **Receive our prayer.**

### Pastoral Prayer

## Celebration of Holy Communion

### Invitation to the Table

#### \* Communion Summons

*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.

#### \* The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!

Many: **And also with you.**

One: People of the Empty Tomb, 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,  
and 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**

**Our God in heaven, holy is 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.*

**Breaking of the Bread**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**\* Closing Hymn PH (blue) 339**

*Be Thou My Vision*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**\* 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

**Preacher** – Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

**Liturgists** – Rev. Dr. So Jung Kim, Rev. Rob Mark

**Lector** – Anne Crane

**Guest Cellist** – Davis You

**Moment for Generosity** – Christine James

**Communion Servers** – Harry Forsdick, Trudi Veldman

**Digital Minister** – Rev. Rob Mark

**Audio Visual Tech Volunteers** – Abhishek John, Jon Schwarz

**Sunday Sexton** – Jesús Vargas

*Special thanks to Minister of Music Tom Handel for music preparation.*

**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 COTC?** We are so glad you are 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](http://cotcbos.org).



**COVER ART.** “In My Father’s House are Many Mansions” woodcut by Irvin Amen, 1962.

**JUBILEE JAUNT IN FRANKLIN PARK.** Today, Sunday, October 15, 1:30 pm. Our Climate Jubilee-ers continue to encourage us to enjoy God’s creation as it is now—and once again invite us to jaunt together! Betty Southwick will lead a walk to explore this local gem, Boston’s largest open space, a partially-wooded parkland in the Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Dorchester neighborhoods of Boston.

**CHOIR INVITATION.** We would love new members of the choir! If you are interested, speak to Minister of Music Tom Handel or email [thomasghandel@gmail.com](mailto:thomasghandel@gmail.com).



**ALL-CHURCH RETREAT: “Enough.” Saturday, October 28, 9:30 am-4:30 pm, Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham, MA.** Please join us for our annual all-church retreat as we return to the sacred setting at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, where we will 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 as we focus on the themes of “what is enough/I’ve had enough/we are enough.” “Second” breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Register:** [tinyurl.com/cotcretreat23](https://tinyurl.com/cotcretreat23) by 10/15 or use this QR code:



**WELCOME CHILDREN & YOUTH.** We offer Christian education through Godly Play for ages 3-9 and youth classes for ages 10-13 and 14+. We welcome all children, youth, and families—those we know already and those who are here for the first time. We especially encourage kids and youth of all ages to remain in worship today for our all ages worship, though the nursery remains open. If you need help finding us, please ask an usher. We share CYCE info regularly via email, so please email Rev. Kate at [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org) if you want to receive updates!

**UPCOMING 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 services (in-person and Zoom options). [Zoom Link for each service.](#)

- Sunday, October 22, Rev. Rob preaching
- Sunday, October 29, Celebration of the Word
- Sunday, November 5, Covenant Renewal, Celebration of Renew the Light, Communion

**BUILDING COMMUNITY.** In the spirit of building deeper connections, community, and momentum as a church, Council requests you consider making an extra effort to attend in-person as is possible, the following events:

- All-Church Retreat: Saturday, **October 28**
- Celebration of Renew the Light and Rededication of Windows: **November 5**
- All-Church Potluck following worship: Sunday, **November 5**

**CLIMATE JUBILEE ALL-CHURCH READ.** Please join us for another All-Church Read book discussion at an Adult Ed offering after church on **November 19**. The book is *In Deep Waters: Spiritual Care for Young People in a Climate Crisis*. The author is Talitha Aho, who ministers in California to a younger generation. She shares how the climate crisis impacts that generation and the importance of offering ecologically informed spiritual care. She shares practical ways to care for and respect God's world, drawing on science, Scripture, and her expertise. The book is available through the Boston Public Library (as an e-book) or at <https://www.fortresspress.com/store/product/9781506469782/In-Deep-Waters>.

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY MORNINGS.** Our weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:45 on Zoom. We are studying the book of Romans. If you'd like more information or want to be on the list to get regular reminders and Zoom info, contact Jan Gough at [revjangough@gmail.com](mailto:revjangough@gmail.com).

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS 6:00-6:30 pm.** Join us for our weekly Wednesday evening prayers with intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms, and sharing of prayers with our siblings from Newton Presbyterian [on Zoom](#) (link on [cotcbos.org](http://cotcbos.org)).

**VIDEO CAMERAS/POSTING FULL SERVICE RECORDINGS.** To best serve our diverse community and new worshippers, we livestream and record each service, including Celebrations and Concerns. If you would prefer not to be in occasional camera shots, you are welcome to sit on the outside aisles on either side of the sanctuary. Recordings of each service are available on our [Worship Recordings Page](#) ([cotcbos.org/worship-recordings](http://cotcbos.org/worship-recordings)).

**WEEKLY CALENDAR.** Click [here](http://cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events) ([cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events](http://cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events)) 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** – Worshippers 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 Lawrence 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*