

# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 22, 2023**

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



# Church of the Covenant

## The 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 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**

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. David Hamilton

### **Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

### **\* Call to Worship**

(adapted from *Enfleshed*)

One: We gather in devotion to the One who is Justice, Peace, and Compassion.

Many: **We turn our hearts toward the One who delivers us from evil.**

One: Attuned to imbalances of power, God draws near to those in struggle, those being heavy burdens, those without enough.

Many: **Empowering all people, God’s love is manifest in action,**

One: Challenging our complicity, championing our capability.

Many: **May the Spirit come and align our lives with God.**

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

One: The light of Christ,

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

### **\* Opening Hymn PH (blue) 263**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

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

**Many:** For the earth's colors drawn forth by the sun, its brilliance piercing clouds of darkness and shimmering through leaves and flowing waters, thanks be to you, O God. Show to us this day amidst life's gloomy streaks of wrong and suffering the light that endures in every person. Dispel the confusions that cling close to our souls, that we may see with eyes washed by your grace, that we may see ourselves as renewed and restored.

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

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

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

**One:** The same God who lovingly liberated the Hebrew people from slavery, liberates us from all that burdens and oppresses. Hear God's loving assurance to us: "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Grateful for this restorative presence, together, let us celebrate:

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

## \* Sung Response

*Peace, Salaam, Shalom*

2-part round with obligato parts I & II

Words and Music: Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow

Round

part 1

Peace sal-aam, shalom, Peace sal-aam, shalom,

part 2

Peace sal - aam, shalom, Peace sal-aam, sha-lom

fine

## Reading from Scripture

### Hebrew Bible Reading – Exodus 33:12-23

Moses said to GOD, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” God said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And Moses said to God, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

GOD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” And God said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The Holy One; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.’ “But,” God said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” And GOD continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

## **Gospel Reading** – Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Sung Response**

*Peace, Salaam, Shalom*

## **Sermon**

“A Third Way?”

## **Prayer of the Mothers** <https://youtu.be/YyFM-pWdqrY>

*Women Wage Peace*

## **Sung Response**

*Peace, Salaam, Shalom*

## **Call to Offering**

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

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

## **Offertory**

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Alice Parker

## **\* 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) 545

*Now, on Land and Sea Descending*

Now, on land and sea descending,  
Brings the night its peace profound;  
Let our vesper hymn be blending  
With the holy calm around.  
Jubilate! Jubilate!  
Jubilate! Amen!  
Let our vesper hymn be blending  
With the holy calm around.

Soon as dies the sunset glory,  
Stars of heav'n shine out above,  
Telling still the ancient story—  
Their Creator's changeless love.  
Jubilate! Jubilate!  
Jubilate! Amen!  
Telling still the ancient story—  
Their Creator's changeless love.

Now, our wants and burdens leaving  
To God's care Who cares for all,  
Cease we fearing, cease we grieving:  
At God's touch our burdens fall.  
Jubilate! Jubilate!  
Jubilate! Amen!  
Cease we fearing, cease we grieving,  
At God's touch our burdens fall.

As the darkness deepens o'er us  
Lo! eternal stars arise;  
Hope and faith and love rise glorious,  
Shining in the Spirit's skies.  
Jubilate! Jubilate!  
Jubilate! Amen!  
Hope and faith and love rise glorious,  
Shining in the Spirit's skies.

**\* 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. Rob Mark

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Liturgist** – Maria Arruda

**Lector** – Nancy Stockford

**Covenant Choir**

**Digital Minister** – Trudi Veldman

**Audio Visual Tech Volunteers** – Derek Holbrook, Jon Schwarz

**Ushers** – Anne Crane, Holly Humphreys

**Sunday Sexton** – Jesús Vargas

**DEACONS MEETING TODAY!**

The Deacons are meeting after church today in the Williams Library.

**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).



## **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 meet downstairs in Bates Hall. 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 29, Celebration of the Word
- Sunday, November 5, Rev. Rob Mark preaching, Covenant Renewal, Celebration of Renew the Light, Communion
- Sunday, November 12, Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard preaching
- Sunday, November 19, Blessing of the Animals, Dedication of Pledges, 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:

- 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>.



**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).

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY MORNINGS.** Our weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 9:45 am 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)).

**UPCOMING COVENANT TENANT-PARTNER CONCERTS IN COTC SANCTUARY.** \***La Donna Musicale** (performing music by women composers) will present Dancing Bridges on **Sunday, November 5**, at 4:00 pm, featuring Rumbarroco, exceptional vocal and instrumental musicians who connect Spanish music of the past with African, Indigenous genres that survive in contemporary popular and folk music in Latin America. See [ladm.org](http://ladm.org) for more information.

\***Coro Allegro** (Boston's LGBTQ+ and allied classical chorus) presents a concert on **Saturday, November 19**, at 3:00 pm. The theme is "IDENTIFY: Reclaimed," including three works that explore the reclamation of individual identity in times of violent struggle, culture war, or political oppression. See [coroallegro.org](http://coroallegro.org) for more information.

**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.

*Church of the Covenant is focused on following Jesus in our world through accompaniment, compassion, peace, joy and creative beauty.*

*We are passionate about hospitality, committed to justice, and wild about faith.*

*We embrace an embodied spirituality that is not afraid of questions.*

*We advocate for a just climate for our earth, liberation in our world, and equality in our neighborhoods.*

*We are a community where ALL are welcome and celebrated as beautiful reflections of God—all genders, all faiths, all orientations, all backgrounds, all abilities, all ages, all struggles, and all hopes.*

*Come journey with us!*

*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*