

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



All Saints' Sunday



All Saints Sunday / Día de los Muertos
22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 29, 2023

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant
All Saints Sunday / Día De Los Muertos
The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 29, 2023, 10:30 am [Zoom Link](#)

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

Toccata in d minor

J. S. Bach

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Invitation to Building an Altar in the Spirit of Día de los Muertos

*** Call to Worship**

(taken from Psalm 1)

One: Happy are those who do not take the path that sinners tread.

Many: **Our delight is in the way of God.**

One: May we be like trees planted by streams of God’s living water.

Many: **May our lives bear good fruit, loving God and loving neighbor.**

One: Today we gather holding the pain and seeking the joy,

Many: **May our worship bring blessing and peace.**

*** Kindling the Christ Light**

One: The light of Christ,

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

*** Opening Hymn**

O When the Saints

1. O when the saints go marching in (x2)

O how I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in

2. O when the sun, begins to shine...

3. O when the earth is healed and free...

4. O when we all, have food to eat...

5. On that hal-lelujah day...

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: Loving God of all the saints, like those who have gone before us, we know both faith and failure. We know both peace and pain. Our world knows too much injustice, some of which we are complicit in. While we strive to live in the ways of wholeness, we sometimes fall short. In your mercy and love, forgive and restore us. Liberate us to live more fully into the ways of your love.

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

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Beloved, the unpolluted waters of baptism remind us that God's grace is as wide as the ocean, the Spirit is as present as the air we breathe, and absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ, the one who comes to us as Christ-with-us. Therefore, as saints who go marching on in peace and reconciliation, let us celebrate together:

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

* Sung Response

Over My Head

Refrain



Reading from Scripture

New Testament Reading – Revelation 7:9-10, 16-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb! They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

New Testament Reading – 1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Creator has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know God. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Reflection on the Word

* Song

I'll Fly Away

Some bright morning when this life is over, I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away

Refrain:

I'll fly away O glory,

I'll fly away in the morning

When I die, alleluia by and by, I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away

Like a bird from these prison's walls have flown, I'll fly away. *Refrain*

O how glad and happy when we meet, I'll fly away

No more cold iron shackles on our feet, I'll fly away. *Refrain*

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

The Great Pumpkin Waltz

Vince Guaraldi

* 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 NCH 597

Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

As we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. *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.**

Worship Participants

Worship Leaders – Rev. Rob Mark, Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Lector – Theodor Langenbruch

Usher – Trudi Veldman

Digital Minister – Diane Lauber

Audio Visual Tech Team – Derek Holbrook, Jon Schwarz, Venkatesh Balasubramanian

Sunday Sexton – Jesús Vargas

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.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS TODAY. In solidarity with this traditional celebration originating from Mexico, and what some of us have learned from our siblings in Nicaragua, we will “build an altar” of remembrance of those who have died in our community or world as a part of this Sunday’s All Saints service. You are invited to bring a photo or symbol of a loved one who you would like to remember. Photos or symbols will be placed on this altar for the duration of the service; you will be instructed to take the photo/symbol home with you at the end of the service. If you are joining us on Zoom, please feel free to place names of saints you’d like lifted in the chat.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. A congregational meeting has been called for **Sunday, November 12**, immediately following the worship service in the sanctuary to vote on the following motion: *To change the By-Laws Article VI section 1, Article VII section 1 and Article X section 4 to reflect: that the Covenant Council will have 6-7 members in 3 classes of 2-3 members and that the Board of Deacons will have 6-10 members in 3 classes of 2-4 members.*

NOVEMBER 1 ALL SAINTS DAY EVENING PRAYERS. This coming **Wednesday, November 1**, our evening prayers will take on a new form as we are invited to Newton Presbyterian Church, 75 Vernon Street, Newton Corner, for a simple 6:30 pm dinner, followed at 7:15 pm by evening prayers related to All Saints Day. This prayer time will be hybrid, so you can join in person or online via [on Zoom](#) (link on cotcbos.org).

ADULT ED ABOUT MALAWI WITH TRUDI VELDMAN. After the congregational meeting on **Sunday, November 12**, please stay to hear Trudi Veldman speak about her recent trip to Malawi with Villages in Partnership.

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 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, November 5, Rev. Rob Mark preaching, Covenant Renewal, Celebration of Renew the Light, Communion, Potluck after Worship
- Sunday, November 12, Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard preaching, Congregational Meeting After Worship, Adult Ed on Malawi with Trudi Veldman
- Sunday, November 19, Blessing of the Animals, Dedication of Pledges, Communion, Book Discussion After Worship

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**

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.

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 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.

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 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 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](http://cotcbos.org/worship-recordings) (cotcbos.org/worship-recordings).

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

Parking Bargain – Worshippers may park at the Back Bay Garage [Clarendon Street, between Boylston and St. James] on Sundays between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm 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

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 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*

Venkatesh Balasubramanian, *Digital Communications & Audio Visual Tech Manager*

CHURCH OFFICERS

Liz Vizza, *President of the Corporation*

Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*

Anita Gram, *Moderator of Board of Deacons*

Faith Perry, *Treasurer*