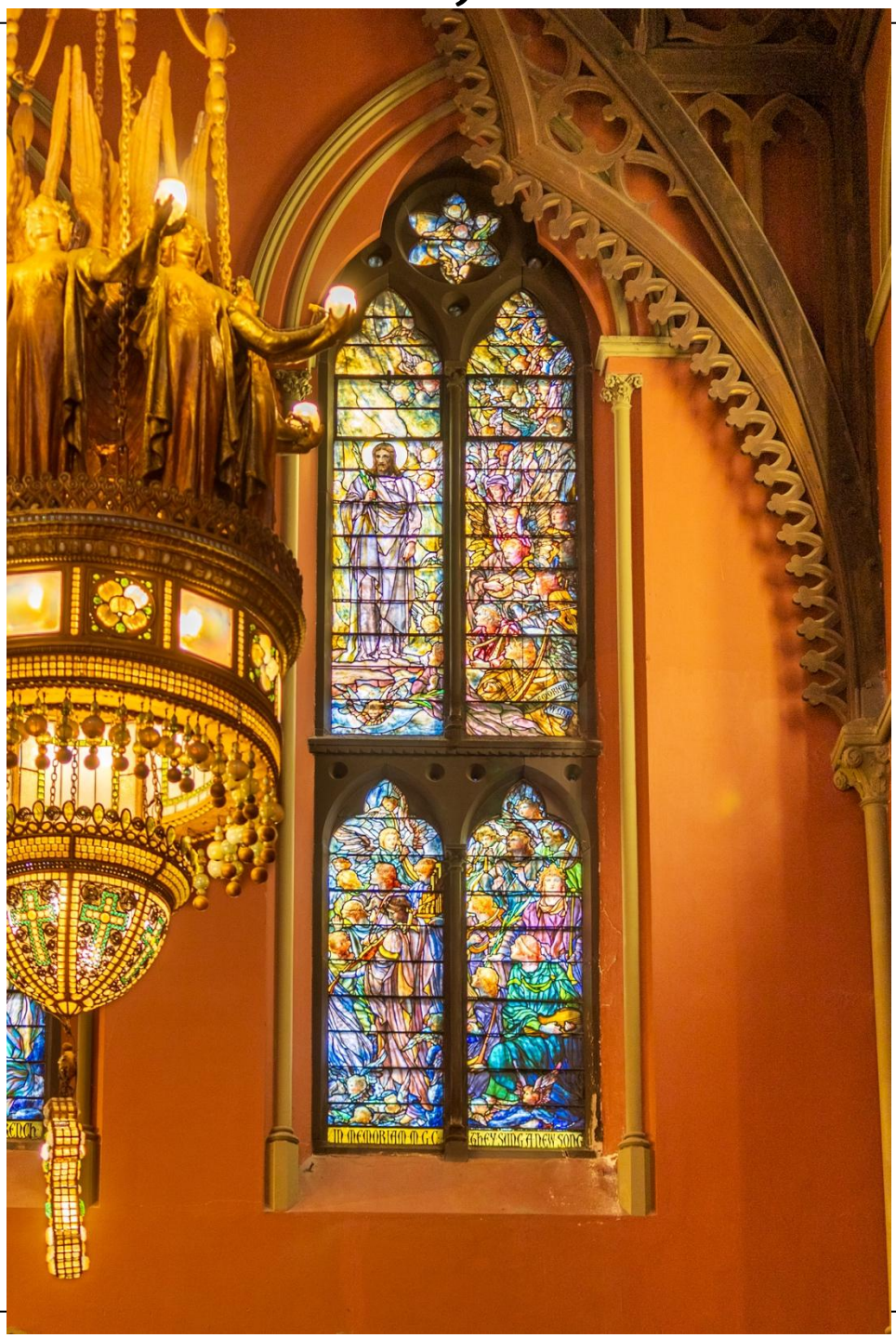
Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



All Saints' Sunday / Día de los Muertos
Season of Jubilee 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 1, 2026

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

Church of the Covenant – Season of Jubilee
All Saints' Sunday / Día de los Muertos
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 1, 2026, 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.

Experiencing God

*** Call to Worship**

One: As we gather here in this sacred space,
Many: We together seek your wisdom and peace.
One: Reshape us God, until in generosity and faith
and in expectation that the beloved community is forming,
Many: We become truly Christ-like.
One: May we become passionate followers of Jesus
Many: Rather than passive observers.
One: Make our churches cells of radical discipleship,
Many: And signposts to your commonwealth of justice and peace.

*** Kindling the Christ Light**

One: The light of Christ,
Many: Thanks be to God!

*** Opening Hymn** *O God, We Give Thanks for the Saints Gone Before Us*

Tune: ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11 D (*Let All Things Now Living*)

(music on next page)

O God, we give thanks for the saints gone before us—
remembering well how they walked Jesus' Way.
They valued the truth and would rise to defend it.
They knelt to be kind to the poor day by day.
They welcomed in immigrants, honored new neighbors,
put love before greed, and sought peace over strife.
May we in our homes and our churches and nations
recall Jesus' teachings and welcome this life.

O God, we give thanks for the saints now among us—
for teachers and helpers and activists, too,
for those in our families and those who work with us
to make the world better, to make the world new.
We thank you for those who seek justice for others,
for those who seek Jesus and live by his grace.
May we in our homes and our churches and nations
give thanks for their witness of love in this place.

O God, we give thanks for the Way Jesus shows us;
may we seek to follow his reign from above.
The world often calls us to hatred and violence,
but Christ's Way is welcome and mercy and love.
Like prophets, apostles, and martyrs before us,
like those who bear witness to you every day,
may we in our homes and our churches and nations
be saints who are eager to choose Jesus' Way.

~Text: 2024 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

O God, We Give Thanks

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2024

Ash Grove
Traditional Welsh Melody

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com | New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

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 repair, let us celebrate together:

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

*** Sung Response** *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*
(see music toward end of bulletin)

Readings from Scripture

Responsive New Testament Reading – Romans 12:9-18, 21

One: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Many: **Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve God. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.**

One: Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Many: **Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the marginalized;**

One: Do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

Many: If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all… Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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.

Sung Response *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*
(see music later in bulletin)

Cloud of Witnesses *Presente*

*** Song** *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. On that hallelujah day…

Scripture Reading

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.

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory *All Good Gifts (Godspell)* Stephen Schwartz

*** Communion Doxology**

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 & Prayers for the Election

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

*** Communion Hymn** *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 Jubilee, 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 the Holy One.

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 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.

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Communion Meditation *Bist du bei mir* attr. J. S. Bach

"If you are with me, then I will go gladly unto my death and to my rest."

Post Communion Prayer

*** Closing Hymn** NCH (black) 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 & Benediction**

*** Exchange of the Peace**

(Please exchange greetings of Christ's peace and repair)
One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
Many: And also with you.

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Worship Participants

Worship Leaders – Rev. Rob Mark, Rev. Dr. Sara Garrard
Minister of Music – Thomas Handel
Lector – Jack Ammerman
Covenant Choir
Communion Servers – Mocky Day, Debbie Howland, Sally Pomeroy
Usher – Denice Thornhill
Digital Minister – Sandra May
Audio Visual Tech Team
Sexton – Jesús Vargas

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying 469

This chorus from a longer song has become a popular sung prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit. Easily memorized, it makes a very suitable sung response at appropriate points during a series of prayer concerns or with repeated singing can open or close a time of prayer.

TEXT and MUSIC: Ken Medema, 1970
Text and Music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company

CHILDREN PRAYING
Irregular

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 welcome 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.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS & END OF LIFE PLANNING. Today we celebrate All Saints' Sunday in the spirit of Día de los Muertos. This is a great time to remember a loved one (human, more than human)—so please consider placing a photo of a loved one on the altar (and don't forget to bring it home with you again). Also, such a Sunday worship is a great reminder to do the work of preparation for your own end of life as a way of loving your loved ones into the future. To aid you in this work, here is the link for the updated Deacons- and Pastor- created COTC End of Life Planning Guide: *https://tinyurl.com/deaconsendoflife26*.

SACRED RECKONINGS SPIRITUAL EDUCATION SESSION AFTER WORSHIP TODAY! Please join us as we continue the work of deep racial justice and truth telling after worship TODAY. Our Sacred Reckonings team will lead a discussion around the work from this past summer that was begun by our so-called Truthdigger team. All are invited to join this exciting effort of research and story uncovering. Please join us in Bates Hall or online at the same Zoom channel as worship.

WELCOME CHILDREN & YOUTH!! Children from age 3 through early elementary are invited to Godly Play classes, and the nursery is open for the littlest ones. If you need help finding us, please ask an usher. We also offer youth classes and other activities for all ages. We share CYCE info regularly via email, so please email Rev. Kate at *kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org* if you want to receive updates.

LIFE ALIVE BRUNCH AND HONORING HISTORY AT KING'S CHAPEL. After worship on **Sunday, November 15**, Life Alive will walk to King's Chapel for a shared meal, followed by "Honoring History. Inspiring Action," an afternoon of community, remembrance, and reflection as King's Chapel marks the next chapter in their Journey Toward Reconciliation. Life Alive is a small group for adults navigating career, family, and life transitions. Contact Rev. Sara (*sara.garrard@cotcbos.org*) if you are interested or need more information. The next brunch will be held on **December 20**.

KING'S CHAPEL HONORING HISTORY. INSPIRING ACTION. On **Sunday, November 15, at 2:30 pm**, King's Chapel is offering an afternoon of community, remembrance, and reflection as they mark the next chapter in their Journey Toward Reconciliation. More information available at: Honoring History. Inspiring Action. Nov. 15.

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP. Please join us each Sunday at 10:30 am and during special services listed below as we come together in community to pray, sing, share celebrations and concerns, and hear God's still-speaking Word proclaimed in these hybrid (in-person and Zoom) services.

- November 8: Covenant Renewal, Rev. Rob Mark preaching, All-Church Potluck & Nicaragua Companions Spiritual Education Session After Worship
- November 15: Blessing of the Animals, Rev. Dr. Sara Garrard preaching, Holy Communion, Life Alive Brunch After Worship
- November 22: Rev. Kate Carlisle preaching, Dedication of Pledges
- November 29: 5th Sunday Selah Service, 1st Sunday of Advent

COVENANT CONNECTIONS. Are you in college? Just moved to the Boston area for grad school? Are you early in your career and looking for a spiritual home? Covenant Connections is a small group for those looking for a spiritual community to discern what God has next for them through Bible studies and connecting over meals. If you want to know more, email Rev. Sara at *sara.garrard@cotcbos.org*.

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS. Our Bible Study gathers at **9:45 on Wednesday mornings on Zoom**. We are reading the Psalms to explore the many ways these songs express both the rage and despair we often feel and the joy and thanksgiving we experience. If you are interested in joining, email Jack Ammerman at *jwacooks@gmail.com* for more information and the weekly Zoom link.

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 also on *http://www.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 & 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*).

WEEKLY CALENDAR. Click here (cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events) to view the weekly calendar of events.

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

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 three (3) hours for only $5. To get this discounted rate, please ask an Usher before or after the worship service for a parking discount sticker.

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 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 restrooms. Please ask an usher to help you locate these resources.

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*. Note that your information goes only to our pastors and you will not be added to any email lists.

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!

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 marginalized, 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 as integral to our community. We maintain vital 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 our Commonwealth and both denominations to join couples of any sexual orientation in fully legal and holy marriage.

Covenant's sanctuary resides on the ancestral and unceded lands and waterways of the Massachusett people. We lament the pain of displacement, honor the ongoing work of repair, and give thanks for all past, present and future stewards of this sacred place.

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. Dr. Sara Garrard, *Transitional Associate Pastor*
Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*
Bill Brown, *Building Manager*
Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator*
Nancy Stockford, *Parish Administrator/Financial Secretary*
Jesús Vargas, *Sexton*
Venkatesh Balasubramanian, *Music Composition Fellow 2025-2026*
Soyoung Cho, *Childcare Provider*

CHURCH OFFICERS

Brian Bigler, *President of the Corporation*
Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*
Anita Gram, *Moderator of the Board of Deacons*
Faith Perry, *Treasurer*