

# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



**November 5, 2023**  
**Covenant Renewal**  
**Renew the Light:**  
**Rededication of the Clerestory Windows**

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



**Church of the Covenant**  
**Covenant Renewal Sunday**  
**Renew the Light:**  
**Rededication of the Clerestory Windows**

November 5, 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**

Hornpipe from *Water Music*

G. F. Handel

**Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

**\* Call To Worship**

(from the Celtic Iona Community)

One: O Christ, you are within each of us. It is not just the interior of these walls, it is our own inner being that you are restoring.

Many: **We are your temple not made with hands. We are your body.**

One: If every wall should crumble, and every church decay, we are your habitation. Nearer are you than breathing, closer than our hands.

Many: **Ours are the eyes with which you look out with compassion on the world.**

One: As we gather today in worship of you, Maker of Heaven, Creator of the Earth,

Many: **Restore us so that your Renewed Light might shine.**

**\* Kindling the Christ Light**

One: The light of Christ,

Many: **Thanks be to God!**



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

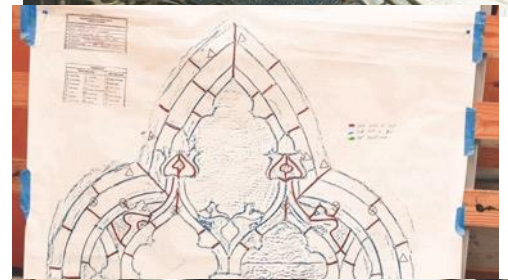
Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

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.

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.

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.

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*





## Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

**Many:** Love Divine, Covenant-Making God, your promise of steadfast love is for us and for all generations. Jesus renewed and embodied your promise to us, calling us to fullness of life and joy as we love you and love others as ourselves. We confess that we sometimes misunderstand the new vision to which you call us. We unknowingly participate in the structural sins of our society. We fail to love your earth fiercely enough. As a people and as individuals, we do not do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Help us to return to you—to hope against hope in your power to transform us and set us free.

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



## Listening to God in Silent Prayer

### Assurance of God's Grace

**One:** People of God—rise up. Into grace—rise up. Into forgiveness—rise up. Into the sweet, boundless, and never-ending fierce love of God—let us rise up, and celebrate together:

**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

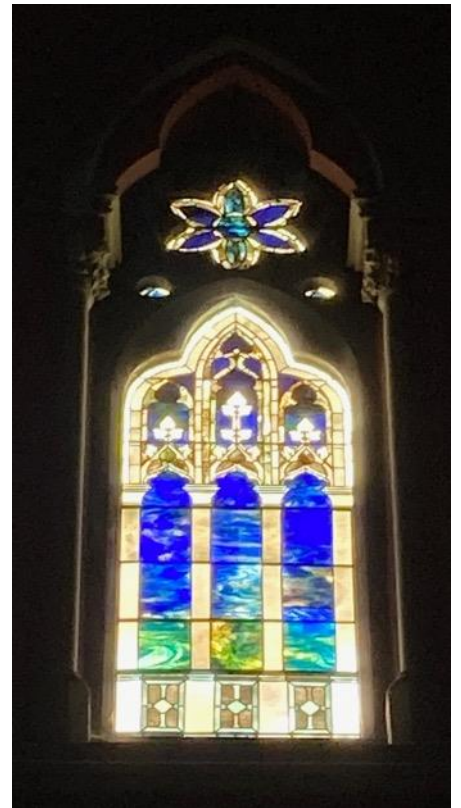
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## Readings from Scripture

**Hebrew Bible Reading** – Isaiah 60:1-5, 7b-8, 11, 13, 17-20

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of GOD has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth  
and thick darkness the peoples,  
but the Holy One will arise upon you,  
and God's glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light  
and rulers to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together; they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you...  
and I will glorify my glorious house.  
Who are these that fly like a cloud  
and like doves to their windows?  
Your gates shall always be open;  
day and night they shall not be shut...  
The glory of Lebanon shall come to you,  
the cypress, the plane, and the pine,

to beautify the place of my sanctuary,  
and I will glorify where my feet rest.  
I will appoint Peace as your overseer  
and Righteousness as your taskmaster.  
Violence shall no more be heard in your land,  
devastation or destruction within your borders;  
you shall call your walls Salvation  
and your gates Praise.  
The sun shall no longer be  
your light by day,  
nor for brightness shall the moon  
give light to you by night,  
but the HOLY ONE will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory.  
Your sun shall no more go down  
or your moon withdraw itself,  
for God will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of mourning shall be ended.



**Unison Reading of the Psalm – From Psalm 146**

**Hallelujah! Praise God, O my soul!**

**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,  
for there is no help in them.**

**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah for their  
help, whose hope is in the Holy One their God;**

**Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them  
who keeps God's promise forever;**

**Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,  
and food to those who hunger.**

**God sets the prisoners free; God opens the eyes of the blind;  
God lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**God loves the righteous; God cares for the stranger;  
God sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked. Hallelujah!**

## **New Testament Reading** – Ephesians 5:6-14

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be associated with them, for once you were in the shadows, but now in God you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to God. Take no part in the unfruitful works of evil; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

## **Gospel Reading** – Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Maker in heaven.”

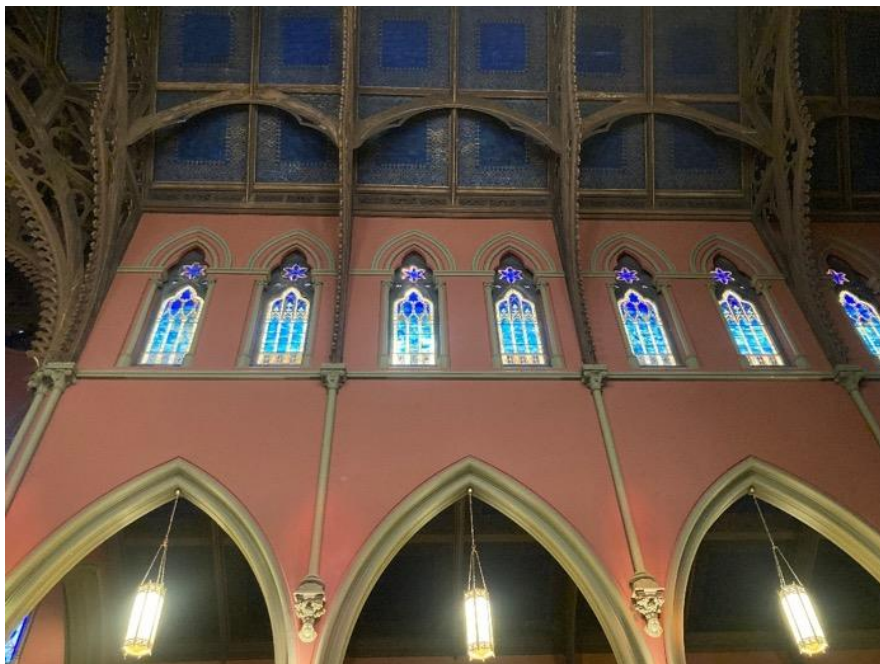
One: God is still speaking, the word of God,  
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

## **\* Sung Response**

*Peace, Salaam, Shalom*

## **Sermon**

“Heaven and Earth”



## Canticle of the Three Children

Verse 1 and Refrain: Christine James

Verse 2: Barbara Darling

Verse 3: Karen Henry

In Celebration of

Easter/Earth Day

2019

Tune: Gustav Holst



Vs. 2 Choir Only  
(all sing refrain)

Praise God, all works of heav - en, all beasts both wild and tame. Clear skies or rains from  
The moon in all its splen-dor, the sun - rise light sub-lime, the birch-es stand-ing  
All\_ Chil-dren who are hap - py and those with-out a home who long for love and



heav - en, all man-i - fest God's reign! Star-ry night and dew-y morn-ing sum-mer  
slen- der the hol-ly-hocks that climb. Bright light - ning as it's pop - ping, loud\_  
safe - ty, God will not leave a - lone. We the stew - ards of this life\_\_ Each\_



breeze and wint - er chill. The\_\_ dolph-in's leap, hawks soar - ing, each  
thun - der as it roars, small\_\_ bun - nies happ' - ly hop - ping, Gir -  
called by God by name join with earth and oc - eans bright\_\_ to

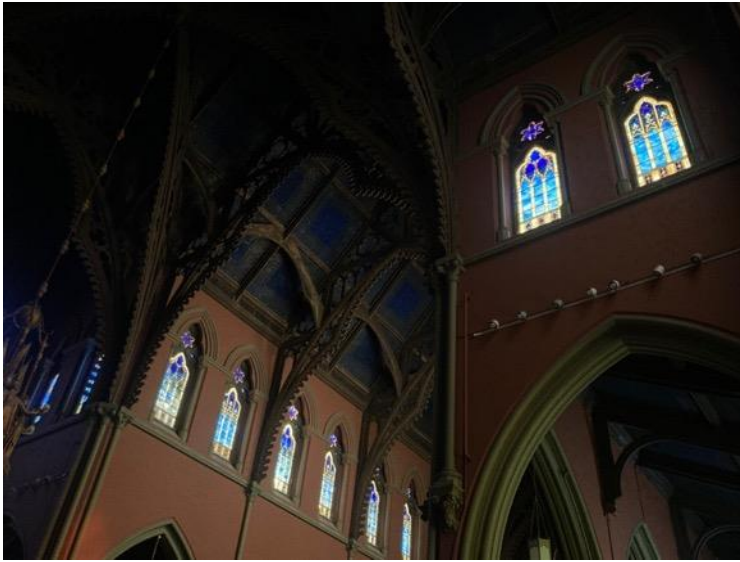


shows God's lov - ing will.  
affes and lab - ra - dors. We\_\_ pledge our love and lab - ors to build a world of  
sing our joy - ful praise.



peace, for our kin and for our neigh-bors God's wond-ers nev - er cease!





### **Renew the Light: Rededication of the Clerestory Windows**

- One: Today we rededicate these clerestory windows,  
**Many: May the renewed light that comes in bring blessing.**  
One: Like their swirling opalescent glass colors,  
**Many: May all who enter this sanctuary see beauty in diversity.**  
One: Today we rededicate ourselves as living windows,  
**Many: May we too be renewed as portals of God-shine.**  
One: With the power of Heaven,  
**Many: May we illumine the truth that all people and creation are worthy of restoration.**  
One: While rooted on Earth,  
**Many: May we be renewed in the work of love, justice, and peace.**

### **Call to Offering**

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

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

### **Offertory**

*O Happy Day*

Edwin Hawkins  
vs. 2 Christine James

### **\* 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 and Concerns

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

## Pastoral Prayer

### 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 Covenant, let us lift up our hearts!

Many: **We open our hearts to God 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 One who loves us.**

One: It is right for us to thank and praise you God...

...And so, with your people here on earth, with all the ancestors, 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**

(from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

**\* Breaking and Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

*You are invited to come forward to receive the bread and cup and then will be invited to spread out to stand in the side aisles of the sanctuary to finish the service from there.*

**\* Post Communion Prayer**

**\* Renewal of the Covenant**

**Here as the chimes of Sabbath call,  
The Gospel feast be ever spread;  
Redeeming love's great festival, —  
The wine of joy, the living bread.**

**\* Closing Hymn: NCH (black) 471 (verses 1 & 2)**

*What a Covenant*

What a covenant, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain:*     Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
                 Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

*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**

**Preacher** – Rev. Rob Mark

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Liturgist** – Liz Vizza

**Lector** – Marnie Warner

**Covenant Choir and Friends**

**Historic Preservationists** – Roberto Rosa of Serpentino Stained Glass Studio;  
Lynne Spencer, Principal of Spencer Preservation Group

**Communion Co-Celebrant** – Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

**Communion Servers** – Debbie Howland, Sally Pomeroy

**Usher** – Denice Thornhill

**Digital Minister** – Christine James

**Audio Visual Tech Team** – Venkatesh Balasubramanian

**Sunday Sexton** – Jesús Vargas

**Bulletin Cover** – Clerestory Windows, Church of the Covenant

## **POTLUCK TODAY!**

Join us today for an all-church potluck after church in Bates Hall. Please come even if you didn't bring food. There's always enough for everyone.

**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 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!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.** A congregational meeting has been called for **Sunday, November 12**, 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.*

**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.

**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>.

**HOLDING SACRED SPACE.** As a follow-up to our wonderful church retreat, we welcome you to join us in Bates Hall following worship on **November 26** and/or **December 10** to continue any conversations, insights, and visions you may have.

**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 12, Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard preaching, Congregational Meeting After Worship, Adult Ed on Malawi w/Trudi Veldman
- Sunday, November 19, Blessing of the Animals, Dedication of Pledges, Communion, Book Discussion After Worship
- Sunday, November 26, Reflection on the Word, Advent Wreath Making and Holding Sacred Space Post Worship

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS.** Our weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:45 on Zoom. 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 w/ intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms, and sharing of prayers w/ our siblings from Newton Presbyterian [on Zoom](#).

**UPCOMING COVENANT TENANT-PARTNER CONCERTS IN COTC SANCTUARY.** \***La Donna Musicale** (performing music by women composers) will present Dancing Bridges today, **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 "IDENTITY: 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 info.

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

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

*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 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*