

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Gratitude & Reign of Christ Sunday

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

[ZOOM LINK \(click here\)](#)



Church of the Covenant
Gratitude & Reign of Christ Sunday
Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20, 2022, 10:30 am

[ZOOM LINK: tinyurl.com/cotcworship](https://tinyurl.com/cotcworship)

Welcome and thank you for worshipping together for this “hybrid” service where some will be in the sanctuary of their homes, and some in the sanctuary at 67 Newbury Street. For those joining online, please keep your mic muted during the service. The full service is recorded and later posted online

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

Prelude *Prelude for the Left Hand, Op. 9 No. 1* Alexander Scriabin

Welcome & Announcements & Presbytery Nominating Video

One: Peace be with you.

Many: And also with you.

*** Call to Worship** *(Rooted in Psalm 16)*

One: When the world is rough, You keep us safe, O God our Refuge.

Many: **All good gifts around us come from You, Great Provider!**

One: You guide us and make our hearts sing,

Many: **You lead us on in the path of life.**

One: You fill our hearts with gratitude to sing out in affirmation that:

Many: **Black, brown, indigenous, queer & trans lives matter – as all people bear likenesses of you, O Loving Creator!**

One: In Your presence there is fullness of joy,

Many: **In Your *kin-dom* of justice and peace there is thanksgiving!**

***Kindling the Christ Light**

***Opening Hymn: NCH (black) 21**

God Reigns O'er All the Earth

God reigns o'er all the Earth! Green hills and valleys low, the farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show. God reigns o'er all the Earth! Stone banks and spreading plains, in rainbow hues – reds, yellows, blues, of streams and country lanes.

God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years, in death, in birth,
in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears. God reigns o'er human life! Our
inspiration still. Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's
reigning will.

God reigns o'er time and space! In history's bygone days, Christ's faithful folk
in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise. God reigns o'er time and space!
O'er galaxy and sun, through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly
music run.

God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day in all our past and to the last,
our comfort and our stay. God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!
God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!

Truth Telling & Remembering

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

(J. Phillip Newell)

One: For everything that emerges from the earth, thanks be to you, O
God. Holy Root of being, Sacred Sap that rises, Full-bodied
Fragrance of earth's unfolding form.

Many: **May we know that we are of You.**
May we know that we are in You.
May we know that we are one with You, and together, one.
Guide us as nations to what is truest
Open us as peoples to what is deepest
Lead us as a world to what is dearest
That we may know the holiness of wholeness
That we may learn the strength of humility
That together we may live close to the earth
And grow in grounded glory.

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

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: As recipients of grace, with hearts full of thanksgiving for all that God has done and is doing in our lives and in our world, let us celebrate together:

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

Sung Response

Over My Head

Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
Over my head, I hear music in the air;
There must be a God somewhere.

Readings from Scripture

Gospel Lessons – Luke 17:20-31

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There it is!" For, in fact, the kingdom of God is within you.'

Then he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Child of Humanity, and you will not see it. They will say to you, "Look there!" or "Look here!" Do not go, do not set off in pursuit. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Child of Humanity. But first he must endure much suffering and be rejected by this generation.

Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Abba, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the Ruler of the People, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the Ruler of the People."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response

Over My Head

Sermon

The Womxn King

Moment for Generosity

Call to Offering and Dedication of 2023 Pledges

Online Giving Option:

<http://www.cotcbos.org/give.html>

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

Offertory

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

*** 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

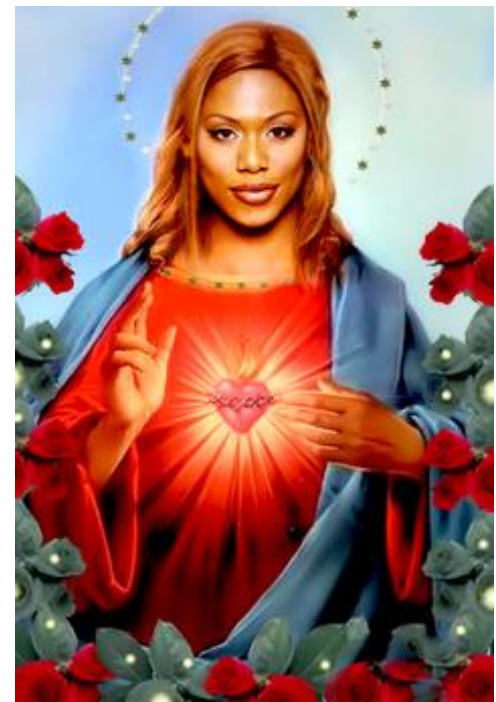
*** Prayer of Dedication**

Celebrations and Concerns & Farewell Blessing for Kate Salfelder

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

(in unison; translation: Hattie Enos, Nez Perce)

O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe, You are our Shepherd
Chief in the most high place. Whose home is everywhere, even
beyond the stars and the moon. Whatever you want done, let it, also
be done everywhere. Give us your gift of bread day by day. Forgive
us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. Take us away
from wrong doings. Free us from all evil. For everything belongs to
you. Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Breaking and Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Post Communion Prayer

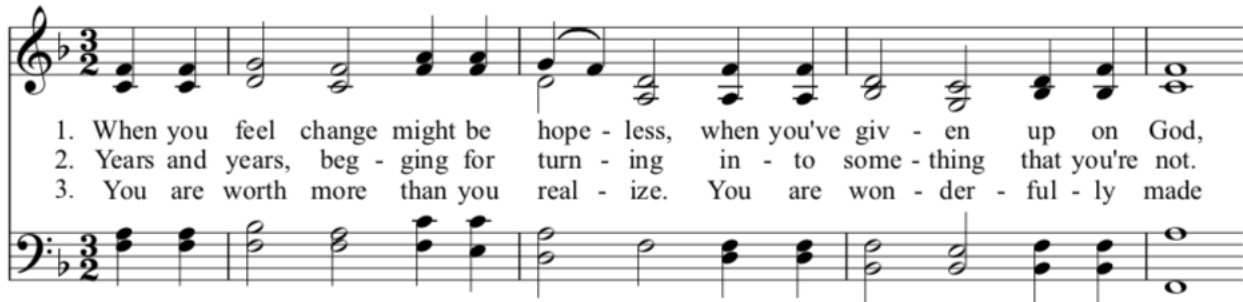
* Closing Hymn

A Hymn for Self-Acceptance (from Songs for the Holy Other)

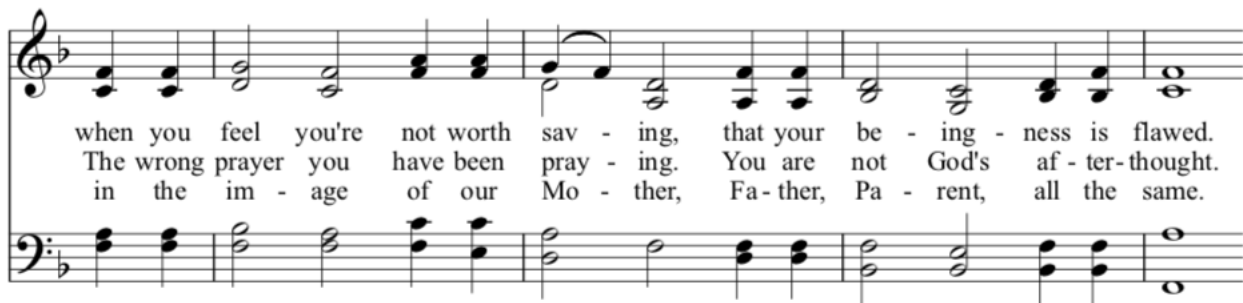
Wesley King

BEACH SPRING

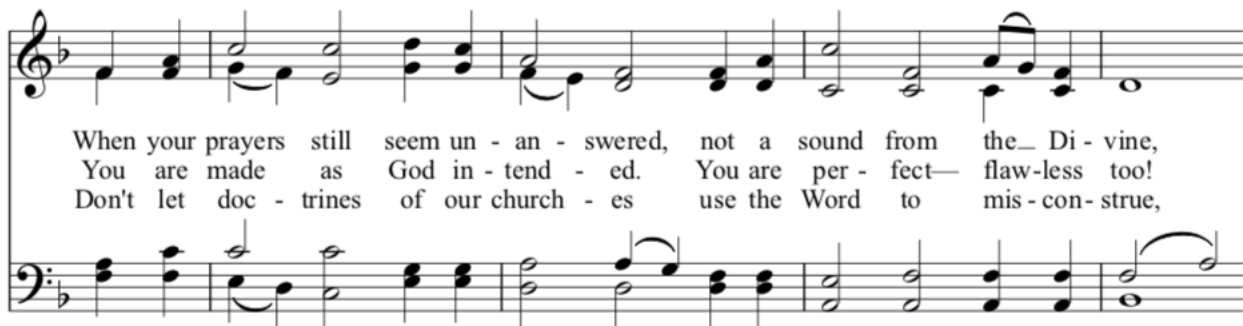
B.F. White, harm. Ronald A. Nelson



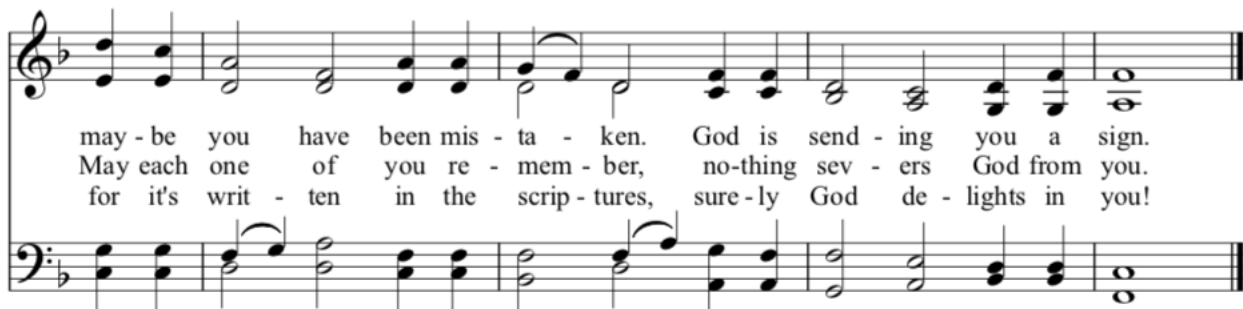
1. When you feel change might be hope - less, when you've giv - en up on God,
2. Years and years, beg - ging for turn - ing in - to some - thing that you're not.
3. You are worth more than you real - ize. You are won - der - ful - ly made



when you feel you're not worth sav - ing, that your be - ing - ness is flawed.
The wrong prayer you have been pray - ing. You are not God's af - ter - thought.
in the im - age of our Mo - ther, Fa - ther, Pa - rent, all the same.



When your prayers still seem un - an - swered, not a sound from the Di - vine,
You are made as God in - tend - ed. You are per - fect - flaw - less too!
Don't let doc - trines of our church - es use the Word to mis - con - strue,



may - be you have been mis - ta - ken. God is send - ing you a sign.
May each one of you re - mem - ber, no - thing sev - ers God from you.
for it's writ - ten in the scrip - tures, sure - ly God de - lights in you!

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***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

Sabbath Supply Minister of Music – Kate Salfelder

Preacher – Rev. Rob Mark

Liturgist – Nancy Ammerman

Lector – Maria Arruda

Moment for Generosity – Nancy Stockford

Audio-Visual Techs – Abhishek John, Jon Schwarz

Usher – Betty Rots

Digital Minister – Christine James

Communion Servers – Trudi Veldman, Harry Forsdick

ADULT ED ON TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE. Today is Transgender Day of Remembrance, a day to witness to the lives and memories of trans people, known and unknown, who have died by violence and despair in the past year. In the spirit of mourning the dead but fighting for the living, we will hold an Adult Ed forum immediately following worship. Rev. Kate will lead a discussion of the ongoing escalation of legislative action, rhetoric, and violence against trans people across the US.

UPCOMING WORSHIP: Please join us each Sunday at 10:30am 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 20, Reign of Christ Sunday, Communion, Trans Day of Remembrance
- Sunday, November 27, First Sunday of Advent, ZOOM ONLY, Rev. Rob preaching
- Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday of Advent, Rev. Joshua, Communion

POTLUCK DECEMBER 4! Please plan to join us as able following worship on December 4 for our first potluck back in Bates Hall since February 2020! All are invited to bring a dish to share – but please plan to join us whether or not you are able to share. Also, if you feel at all uncomfortable joining us to share in eating, you are fully welcome to remain masked and join in for fellowship as comfortable. Questions or would like to help out with set up/ clean up, please email Trudi.

WELCOME CHILDREN & YOUTH!! We warmly welcome all young people and their families into our journey together. Children and youth are always welcome to remain in worship, to drop in to the nursery, or to join our Sunday School classes. Families can find our nursery and classrooms by going to the back of the sanctuary and then down the stairs into our lower fellowship hall called Bates Hall (also accessible by elevator – please ask an usher for directions). To learn more, contact Rev. Kate Carlisle, CYCE Coordinator: kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org

LIFE ALIVE MINISTRY. Our young adults (aka “Life Alive”) enjoy a robust fellowship and community that gathers monthly for brunches and weekly for prayers. Want to join us or have questions? Email Rev. Joshua at joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org.

LIFE ALIVE HOLIDAY PARTY. On December 10 at 4pm in Bates Hall, Life Alive will gather to bake cookies to give to the Deacons for holiday care packages. Come and help roll some dough and decorate some cookies in the spirit of Christmas. For more information, email Rev. Joshua at joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org

2022 SEASON OF GENEROSITY – Giving God! This year’s *Short Yet Mighty Season of Generosity* reminds us that all of the beauty and bounty of our world are gifts of our living, giving God. Over three November Sundays, the Generosity Generators team will gratefully acknowledge God’s ceaseless giving of “all good gifts.” As those who have received much, each of us is invited to “give God” on to others, by striving to be the salt, light, compassion, generosity, and justice of Jesus for others in this world. Through annual pledges of treasure, time and talents to Church of the Covenant, we acknowledge in gratitude our faith community’s numerous good gifts to us all, and “pay it forward” to ensure Covenant can continue to “give God” to our congregation, our neighbors and our world into the future. Look for communication from the Generosity Generators team to reach you soon in both letter and email formats. Please prayerfully consider what you can afford to give this year and complete and return the enclosed pledge card at your earliest convenience. **TODAY**

in worship we will dedicate our pledges. For those who cannot come to church in person, please use the electronic pledge form available [here](#) that will go directly to Financial Secretary Nancy Stockford. We hope to raise \$275,000 in pledges this year to help us meet our overall budget. May we *give God* and *receive God* in this season of celebrating the One who gives *all good gifts*!

COVENANT BOOK DISCUSSION. Church of the Covenant's next book discussion is **Sunday, December 4, at 5 PM.** We will meet for a potluck at Faith and Lucy's in Roslindale and discuss Brian McLaren's *Do I Stay Christian?* As always, you are invited whether or not you have read the book and whether or not you've ever come to a Covenant book discussion before. Questions? Ask Barbara: barbarakdarling@yahoo.com

CARDS TO NANCY HOLLOMON. We miss our wonderful congregant and friend Nancy Hollomon who is spending much of this summer & fall at her beloved family "Gade Farm" in upper New York state. While there, email is harder to access, so she'd love to get a postcard or a note from you! If you can, drop her an "old school" line: Nancy Hollomon, 2479 Western Ave., Altamont, NY 12009. Thanks!

VISITING MARY ROBINSON. Our beloved Mary is enjoying in-person visits these days as she is recovering from her broken femur. Please consider dropping by her rehab place in Boston's South End if you can. Please contact Rev. Rob or Faith Perry for more details including free parking.

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS. Our weekly morning Bible Study is each Wednesday morning on Zoom at 9:15am. We are studying the Gospel of John. If you'd like more information or want to be on the list to get regular reminders & Zoom info, contact Jan Gough at revjangough@gmail.com.

SEASON OF THE SPIRIT EVENING PRAYERS 6-6:30pm. Join us for our weekly Wednesday evening prayers with intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms & sharing of prayers with our siblings from Newton Presbyterian [on Zoom](#).

WEEKLY CALENDAR Click [here](#) 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. To sign up for email updates about worship services and other events in our community, please fill out a New Visitor's Card and place it in the offering plate, or email us at churchofthecovenant@cotcbos.org

Parking Bargain – Worshipers 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!

Worship Recordings – We will be posting the entire service, including our sharing of celebrations and concerns, that is livestreamed online on our [Worship Recordings Page](#). Please let us know if you have any questions.

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 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 Lazard, *Associate Pastor*
Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*
Bill Brown, *Building Manager*
Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator / Parish Administrator*
Nancy Stockford, *Financial Secretary*
Fred Lopes & Jesús Vargas, *Sunday Sextons*
Alan Lane, *Food Cupboard Coordinator*

CHURCH OFFICERS

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