

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Covenant Renewal Sunday

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

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



Church of the Covenant
The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Covenant Renewal Sunday
First Sunday in Season of Generosity

November 6, 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

What a Covenant

arr. Kate Salfelder

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

*** Call to Worship**

One: When we are unsure of where to go,

Many: **we turn to you, God of Clarity, for guidance.**

One: When we feel stuck in between this and that,

Many: **we wait for your nudge, Gentle Christ.**

One: When we are overwhelmed by the enormity of the work of healing,

Many: **You, Wise Spirit, reveal the next stepping stone.**

One: Meet us in this place, Discerning God.

Many: **We come to meet with You.**

***Kindling the Christ Light**

*** Opening Hymn: NCH (black) 471**

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.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: God of Grace, Covenant-maker, 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. 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

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

Reading from the Hebrew Bible – Haggai 1:15b-2:9

In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of GOD came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O

Zerubbabel, says GOD; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says GOD; work, for I am with you, says the HOLY ONE of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. For thus says the HOLY ONE of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the HOLY ONE of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the HOLY ONE of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the HOLY ONE of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the HOLY ONE of hosts.

Gospel Lesson – Luke 21:5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am the one!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

Sermon

Angels in the Architecture

Moment of Generosity – Giving God

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

Ain't-A That Good News

arr. Jacqueline Hairston

* 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

Renew the Light and Litany of Thanksgiving for the Covenant

Many: Thanks be to you O Loving God, Alleluia!

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.

*** 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 Song**

Where You Go I will Go

by Shoshana Jedwab , © & © 2018 Shoshana Jedwab

Where you go, I will go, Beloved/Refugee/Mother Earth/Children/Ancestors
Where you go, I will go
Where you go, I will go, Beloved/Refugee/Mother Earth/Children/Ancestors
Where you go, I will go

And where you lie, I will lie, Beloved/Refugee/Mother Earth/Children/Ancestors
Where you lie, I will lie
Where you lie, I will lie, Beloved/Refugee/Mother Earth/Children/Ancestors
Where you lie, I will lie

And your people are my people
Your people are mine
Your people are my people
Your Divine my Divine (x2)

***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

Liturgists – Betsy Groves, Liz Vizza, Rev. Joshua Lazard

Lectors – Brian Bigler, Lucy Williams

Sabbath Supply Minister of Music – Kate Salfelder

Violin – Anita Gram

Communion Servers – Anita Gram, Debbie Howland

Moment for Generosity – Holly Humphreys

Audio-Visual Techs – Abhishek John, Jon Schwarz

Ushers – Faith Perry, Holly Humphreys

Digital Minister – Evelyn Kimber

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 in the chat.

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 6, Covenant Renewal Sunday, Communion
- Sunday, November 13, Blessing of the Animals All Ages Worship
- Sunday, November 20, Reign of Christ Sunday, Communion, Trans Day of Remembrance
- Sunday, November 27, First Sunday of Advent, ZOOM ONLY

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

YES ON FOUR – A PLAN TO VOTE. As a church, we encourage all to vote yes on four to help keep our streets safer and to help provide dignity to those our world

considers “immigrants” but our faith reminds us are our siblings and neighbors. More info here: saferroadsma.com/vote/

VOTE. HAVE FAITH. TAKE COURAGE. AND HELP OTHERS VOTE.

This coming Tuesday, November 8, is Election Day. As people of faith, as “citizens of heaven”, we celebrate that our ultimate hope is not in broken political systems, but in God’s all encompassing love that knows no divisions, boundaries, racism, or violence. However, we also acknowledge as people of faith called to help build the Beloved Community here on earth, here and now – called to bring more love and justice in our communities, nation and world – we must take part in our democracy – regardless of how skewed or broken it may seem. So, in this light, Church of the Covenant is asking you to:

1. Vote this coming Tuesday (if you haven’t already with early voting): look here to find your ballot for where you live so you are best prepared:
www.ballotready.org
2. Also prayerfully consider asking/helping 1-2 other people you might know to vote/ get to the polls on Tuesday – even in other states! Think of some who may feel particularly disenfranchised, those for whom physically getting to a poll may be challenging, those for whom language and accessibility might be challenges. Please use these lines to brainstorm three (or more!) people you might contact/ invite/ encourage to vote (this list is for you to keep):
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
3. Pray. Let’s keep this coming election day and all who are striving, working and serving for peace & justice in our heartfelt prayers & blessings.

GIVE TO ANIMALS AS WE BLESS THE ANIMALS! On **Sunday, November 13**, Church of the Covenant will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals service. This year we encourage children of the church—and people of **any age!**—to bring with you to that service contributions of clean new (or gently used) towels, blankets, or sheets; unopened hand soap, bleach, paper towels, and more. These donations will be lovingly delivered to the Animal Rescue League of Boston for the rescued animals in their care. Also, you can contribute to Kobe Henro Pet Food Bank, which gives food and treats to needy pets – you can bring cat food, dog food, kibble, or cat litter. See these links for more information (or ask barbarakdarling@yahoo.com if you have questions):

arl.boston.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021_Boston-Wishlist.pdf
kobenhenro.org/

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS ALL AGES WORSHIP. Next week, we invite you to bring dogs, cats, and other beloved non-human companion animals to worship! Please think carefully about what is best for them; we understand that many will be more comfortable at home. If you have animals you're not bringing in person, you can bring a photo, collar, toy, or other small item for a blessing. We also invite you to bring a picture in memory of those beloved animals who have recently died.

LIFE ALIVE BRUNCH. Our young adults will gather for brunch following worship next **Sunday, November 13.** Questions? Email Rev. Joshua at joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org.

COVENANT BOOK DISCUSSION POSTPONED. Church of the Covenant's book discussion originally scheduled for today will be postponed until **Sunday, December 4, at 5 PM.** We will meet for a potluck at Faith and Lucy's 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!

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*