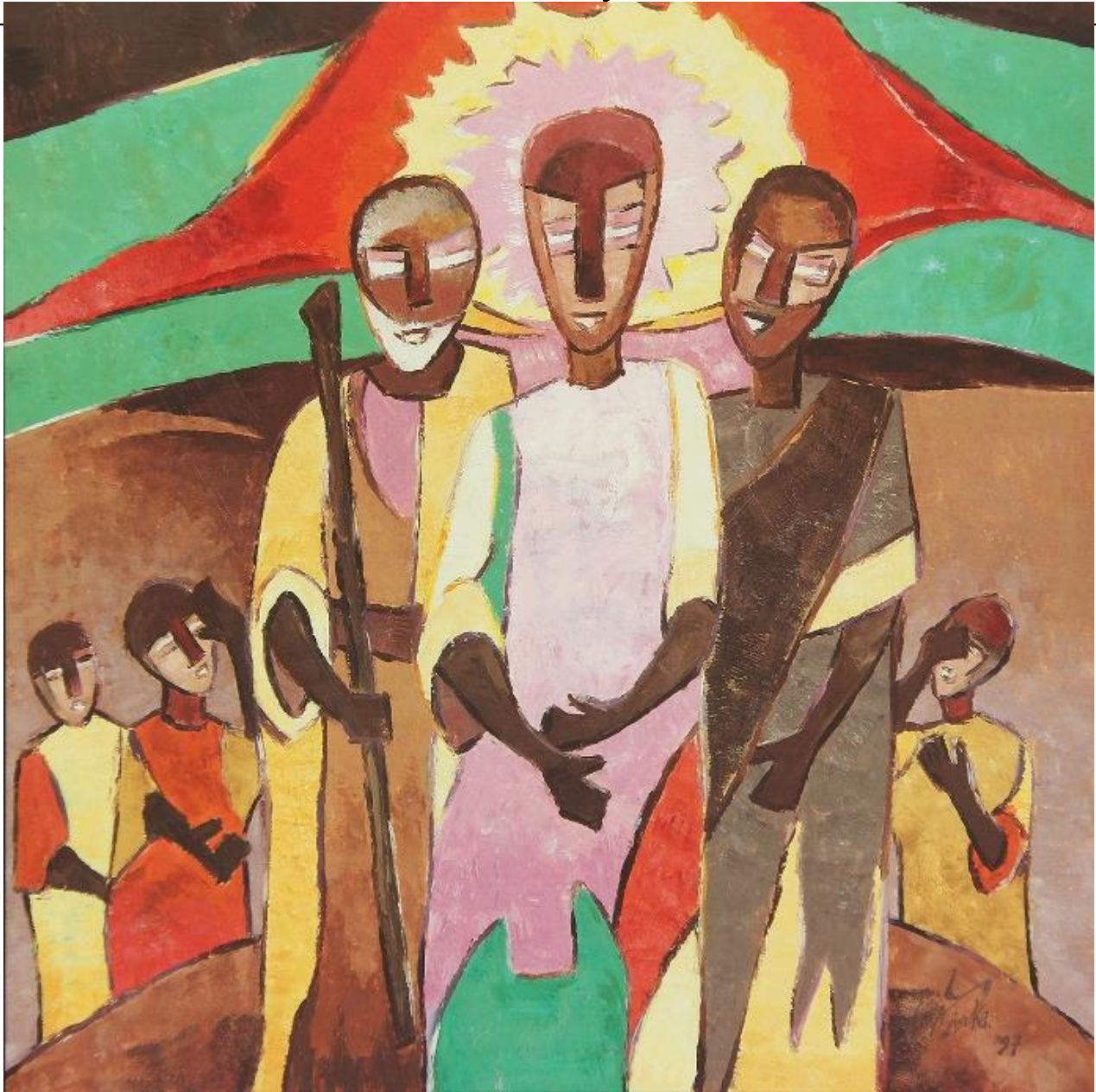


# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



### Transfiguration Sunday

### The Last Sunday in Epiphany

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

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



# Church of the Covenant

Transfiguration Sunday

Holy Communion of the People

February 19, 2023, 10:30 am

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

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Welcome and thank you for worshipping together for this Zoom service where we will be joining each other from many different sacred spaces. After the initial time of greeting, please keep your mic muted during the service unless otherwise invited. The full service is recorded and later posted online. If you would like to share a prayer of Celebration or Concern you will be invited to place a prayer in the chat and we will share aloud.

Today is a Communion Sunday, so please gather something on a plate and something in a cup.  
You are also invited to gather a candle to light when invited.

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## Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

## Prelude

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. David Hamilton

## Black History Month – *Elevate*

### \* Call To Worship

One: Waking in grace,

Many: **We rise to say thank you.**

One: Gathering in solidarity,

Many: **We come together to praise you.**

One: Soaking in the light of your love,

Many: **We are blessed and changed by you.**

One: Come now, let us worship God!

### \* Opening Hymn:

God, The Mountains Tell Your Glory

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D ("Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee")

God, the mountains tell your glory, lifting praise to you above!

In your Word, each mountain story shows your presence and your love.

Noah built as you commanded; soon the waters swirled around.

Those you saved, Lord, safely landed; you set them on mountain ground.

Lord, when Moses was returning to the mountain that he knew,  
There a bush was brightly burning. There it was he heard from you.  
Later Moses felt your presence; in the heights he knew your grace.  
He brought down the Ten Commandments from your holy mountain place.

Christ, you taught upon a mountain, showing us God's kingdom view.  
In the heights when you were praying, God's own glory shone on you.  
Climbing to a quiet garden, in your grief and faith you cried.  
On a hill for our own pardon, you, O Lord, were crucified.

Thank you now for blue-green mountains, red-brown mesas, high peaks, too.  
Here may we enjoy creation, know your presence, learn from you.  
Here may we sing out your glory, hear your call and find your grace.  
Risen Christ, we'll tell your story, from these heights to every place.

## **Kindling the Christ Light**

### **Prayer for Grounding as Thanksgiving Address – Haudenosaunee Confederacy**

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.

**Now our minds are one.**

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we send greetings and thanks.

**Now our minds are one.**

Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

**Now our minds are one.**

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

## Listening to God in Silent Prayer

### Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, now our minds are one. And grateful for all the Creator gives to us, including liberation and restoration, let us celebrate the good news together:

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

### \* Sung Response (NCH 2)

*Glory, Glory*

Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down (x 2)

## Readings from Scripture

### **New Testament:** 2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Creator when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Child, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but people moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

### **Gospel:** Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his sibling John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Adonai, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and

from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Child, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Human One has been raised from the dead.”

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

“Unidentified Objects”

**Sung Response** NCH (black) 2

*Glory, Glory*

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down (x 2)

**Installation New Deacon & Council Member:** Sally Pomeroy & Barbara Darling

**We welcome you in this ministry with hope, and we install you in joy!**

**Trust God, seek the Spirit’s consolation,**

**love this congregation with all your hearts,**

**serve, forbear, witness, practice self-care and lead,**

**in the name of the good and gracious God. Amen.**

**Call to Offering**

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

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

**Offertory**

*Callino Casturame*

William Byrd

**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

## The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!

Many: **And also with you.**

One: People who follow the star, 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 God.**

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

... And so, with your people here on earth, with the saints and ancestors and the great company of heaven, we glorify your name, praising you together saying:

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)*

**Our Parent, who lives in and beyond all of creation, may your name be made holy. May your commonwealth thrive, may your justice be done, may your loving compassion reign in every season. Give us today the bread we need; and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors; in every trial strengthen us, in the midst of evil deliver us. For yours is the dominion, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

## Sharing of the Bread and Cup

## Post Communion Prayer 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.**

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## Worship Participants

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Preacher** – Rev. Rob Mark

**Liturgist** – Evelyn Kimber

**Lector** – Rev. Dr. So Jung Kim

**Cantor** – Andrea Ehrenreich

**Digital Minister** – Rev. Kate Carlisle

**Cover Art** – Augustin Kolawole Olayinka: [“The Transfiguration”, 1997](#)

**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.

**NEW TO COTC?** We're so glad you're 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).



**CLIMATE JUBILEE ALL CHURCH BOOK DISCUSSION:** Join us TODAY, following worship, **Sunday February 19, ~12pm** for a ZOOM book discussion on Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass* [indiebound.org/book](http://indiebound.org/book). Please remain on the same Zoom channel as morning worship.

**ASH WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22, 6:30pm:** Join us in the Sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday Service this week with imposition of ashes & Holy Communion, Rev. Rob Mark offering a brief reflection, and contemplative music led by our Minister of Music, Tom Handel.

**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, including Ash Wednesday.

- Sunday, February 19, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion
- Wednesday, February 22, 6:30pm, Ash Wednesday Service
- Sunday, February 26, Lent 1, Rev. Joshua preaching
- Sunday, March 5, Lent 2, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion

**LENT 2023: The Way of Curiosity:** *Creatively opening ourselves to deeper truths through bolder questions.* Join us this Lent (Feb. 22-April 9) as we journey through the wilderness with Jesus, cultivating more joyful curiosity around topics related to our daily living in search of deeper truths. Together we will consider: Embodied Practices, Make Believe, Simple Living, Active Art & Banned Subjects. Let's get inquisitive & imagine a world where *more (beauty, joy, vision, love, God)* is possible.



Church of the Covenant

Lent 2023

## The Way of Curiosity

Creatively opening ourselves to deeper truths through bolder questions.

*Curiosity (noun): a desire to know; a desire to learn about things that do not properly concern one; inquisitiveness.*



**OPEN SANCTUARY ADULT EDUCATION.** On **Sunday, February 26** following worship, join us in the sanctuary for an adult education session on our Open Sanctuary ministry. Come learn about what we do to open wide our doors throughout the week to the wider public community, and what it might look like to volunteer to help this vital ministry that is the “hands and feet” of COTC to visitors.

**TAKE ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE!** Join our Climate Jubilee Team on 3-21-23 – Tuesday, March 21, 12-:1:30pm as we join Third Act & 350 Mass to tell some big banks to stop funding the fossil fuel chaos that is violating our climate. Location: Downtown Crossing, 425 Washington St, Intersection with Winter St. [Boston, MA 02108](https://mobilize.us/s/Dos7wp). Please sign up here: <https://mobilize.us/s/Dos7wp>

**LIFE ALIVE MINISTRY.** Our young adults (aka “Life Alive”) enjoy a robust fellowship and community that gathers monthly for brunches and weekly for prayers. **Our next brunch is after church Sunday Feb. 26.** Want to join us or have questions? Email Rev. Joshua at [joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org).

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS.** Our weekly morning Bible Study is each Wednesday morning on Zoom at 9:15am. We are studying the Gospel of Matthew. 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](mailto:revjangough@gmail.com).

**LENT EVENING PRAYERS 6-6:30pm.** **We will not have evening prayers this Wednesday** – please join us for our Ash Wednesday service instead. We will return to our weekly Wednesday evening prayers 3/1 with intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms & sharing of prayers with our siblings from Newton Presbyterian *on Zoom*.

**STAFF AWAY:** Rev. Rob will be on school vacation Feb. 21, 23-27 – Rev. Joshua will be covering. Rev. Joshua will be away Sundays Feb. 19, March 5, and March 19.

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**WEEKLY CALENDAR** Click [here](#) to view the weekly calendar of events.



**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 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 marginalized, to enjoy seats at God's table. This congregation seeks to demonstrate that vision by welcoming individuals and families of all races, gender identities, ages, physical/mental abilities, and 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 and gender identities 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*  
Kelsie Lawhorn, *Childcare Provider*

**CHURCH OFFICERS**

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