

# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



## The Fifth Sunday in Epiphany

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

**ZOOM LINK (click here)**



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The Fifth Sunday in Epiphany

February 5, 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 “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.*

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**Prelude**

*What a Covenant*

arr. Bill Wolaver

## **Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

## **Black History Month – *Elevate***

### **\*Call to Worship**

*Enfleshed*

One: We breathe out

Many: **and the forest breathes in.**

One: We reach out for help

Many: **and a friend picks up our call.**

One: We feel low when the months are long

Many: **and the winter sun warms our faces.**

One: We grapple for purpose

Many: **and mutual care grounds us in the everyday holy.**

One: God, you are a Web of Love.

Many: **You are the Swirl of Seasons Changing.**

One: You are Inhale and Exhale.

Many: **And we all belong in your Cosmic Care.**

**\* Opening Hymn: PH (blue) 263**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
  
2. Unresting, unceasing, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
  
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
  
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

**Kindling the Christ Light**

**Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace**

**Many:** God of immortal wisdom, in these days, we need the splendor of your presence to shine. To shine upon our hearts so that we see reflections of your image deep within. To shine upon our all those who are called to protect and serve and convert them to the ways of peace. To shine upon all who are scared, humanized, heartbroken or hurting in these days. Your presence is illumination for our world. May we bask in it now.

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

**Listening to God in Silent Prayer**

## Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, hear the good news: the Ancient of Days is present with us today. Wherever we are, God meets us. God refreshes us. God emboldens us. Therefore, as people renewed, let us celebrate:

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)

## Reading from Scripture

**Gospel of Matthew** – The Casa del Sol Blessings of Jesus

*(John Phillip Newell, adapted from the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-14)*

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 those who know their need  
for theirs is the grace of heaven.**

**Blessed are those who weep  
for their tears will be wiped away.**

**Blessed are the humble  
for they are close to the sacred earth.**

**Blessed are those who hunger for earth's oneness  
for they will be satisfied.**

**Blessed are the forgiving  
for they are free.**

**Blessed are the clear in heart  
for they see the Living Presence.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers  
for they are born of God.**

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sung Response NCH (black) 2**

*Glory, Glory*

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

**Sermon**

“Knowing Our Need”

**Call to Offering**

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

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

**Offertory**

*His Eye is on the Sparrow*

arr Bill Wolaver

**\* 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 Song**

*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. (x2)

All God's children gonna eat together,  
All God's children gonna eat together, some of these days. (x2)

*During the singing of this spiritual, if you are joining us online, please gather a plate and cup.*



## \* 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 Father and Mother, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## 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** – Rev. Joshua L. Lazard

**Lector** – Jesús Vargas

**Ushers** – Anne Crane, Holly Humphreys and Faith Perry

**Audio-Visual Tech Team** – Jon Schwarz, Abhishek John

**Covenant Choir**

**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.

**ANNUAL MEETINGS:** The annual meetings of the Corporation and Congregation will be held today, **Sunday, February 5, 2023** following morning worship at Church of the Covenant and on zoom (hybrid meeting) for the purpose of adopting the 2023 budget, electing 2 members to the Covenant Council for a 3-year term, 1 member to the Covenant Council for a 1-year term, 4 members to the Board of Deacons for a 3-year term, and accepting 2 members to the nominating committee as elected at the denominational meetings.

**SOUP SALE NICA FUNDRAISER:** For the past few years, the Nica Companions have held a soup sale to benefit future delegations to and from Dulce Nombre de Jesus, Nicaragua. We are once again planning to cook mouth-watering soups for your purchase. We will have order forms available today at Covenant's Annual Meeting.

**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, February 5, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion, Annual Meeting
- Sunday, February 12, Winter Walk! Worship in the streets this day – see below.
- Sunday, February 19, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion
- Wednesday, February 22, 6:30pm, Ash Wednesday Service



**Voices of Change**  
P r e s e n t s  
**Religion, Race, and Democracy in  
America: Lessons from our past for  
the Future**



**Prof. Anthea Butler**

Geraldine R. Segal Professor In American Social  
Thought at the University of Pennsylvania

**February 6th @7pm  
in Melucci Auditorium**

**All are welcome!**

**2023 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebratory Program**

Sponsored by the Voices of Change program, and co-  
sponsored by The Honors Program, the Grappone  
Humanities Institute, the Fr. Jonathan DeFelice Intercultural  
Center, and New Hampshire Institute of Politics



**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 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 and Banned Subjects. Together, let's get curious and imagine a world where *more (beauty, joy, vision, love, God)* is possible.

**WORSHIP IN THE STREETS, [Boston's Winter Walk](#).** Our worship service on **Sunday, February 12** will be a bit different than usual. We will join in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston Winter Walk, as we walk 2 miles in shoulder-to-shoulder solidarity with those experiencing homelessness in our city, and re-commit ourselves to the prayerful work of housing justice. There will be 3 options: to join the walk in person at 9am; to join the walk virtually on your own; or to join in a virtual "prayer walk" at home. We are then invited to join Women's Lunch Place for a pancake brunch back in Bates Hall! More details on how to register as part of COTC coming.

There will be 3 options: to join the walk in person at 9am / to join as a remote walker / or join in prayerful solidarity.

**To join the walk in person or on your own,** please register by following these steps.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We want to encourage ALL who are interested to participate whether you feel called to donate, fundraise or not.

Click on this [secure.qgiv.com/event/winterwalkboston23/team/912433/](https://secure.qgiv.com/event/winterwalkboston23/team/912433/)

Click on "Join Our Team"

On this page, we encourage you to click "Women's Lunch Place" so that the money we raise will go directly to our close partners. Then click next:

(a) "I'll fundraise my fee" and later have an option to donate any amount. You also can feel free to donate nothing but still fully participate!

(b) A full \$100 registration fee exists only for those who feel called to donate this/ can afford this.

(c) Remote Walker (or any other category that fits you – including bringing your dog!

On the next page, the rectangle "Church of the Covenant" should be highlight already so you can then type in your fundraising goal. This can be any amount from \$0 and up. Our goal as a church is to raise \$1000 – so anything from \$0-100 is great for this slot. And since this is only a few weeks away, you may find it hard to fundraise, consider naming an amount you feel called to give yourself. But please feel no pressure to donate here if a hardship – we mostly desire your presence! Note: you can click the box: "I don't want a fundraising page" and this allows your name to be listed on our church page, but without a \$ figure. You can still donate separately.

Type in your details (name, contact info, how you heard about the Winter Walk, and waiver, etc.)

Click Next.

On final page, click: Complete Registration.

**To join the walk in prayerful solidarity** in lieu of walking 2 miles, please register here: [forms.gle/hQ4nxZ5S5ieBZcJF9](https://forms.gle/hQ4nxZ5S5ieBZcJF9)

For more info: <http://winterwalkboston.org> . Questions? Email [Rob](mailto:Rob).

**CLIMATE JUBILEE ALL CHURCH BOOK DISCUSSION:** Join us on **Sunday February 19, 12pm** following worship for a hybrid book discussion on Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass* ([indiebound.org/book/9781571313560](https://indiebound.org/book/9781571313560)). We ask you to avoid buying from Amazon.com and instead [use this link](#) to find a local bookstore.

**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](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).

**EPIPHANY 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*.

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**WEEKLY CALENDAR** Click here to view the weekly calendar of events.

**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 the next page!



*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 New Visitor's Card and place it in the offering plate, or email us at [churchofthecovenant@cotcbos.org](mailto: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](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 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 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*