

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



The Day of Pentecost

[ZOOM LINK](#)

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant

May 31, 2020 10:30 am

The Day of Pentecost

<https://zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTllpTTEvRGNZUT09>

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Prelude:

Estudios Sencillos #1-6

Leo Brouwer

* Call To Worship

Genesis 1:1-2, Psalm 104:24,30; Joel 2:28

One: In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep.

Many: **Then the spirit of God swept over the face of the waters.**

One: O God, how magnificent are Your works! In wisdom You made them all, the earth is full of Your creatures.

Many: **When You send forth Your spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the ground.**

One: God will pour out the spirit on all flesh.

Many: **Our children will prophesy,
Our old shall dream dreams,
Our young shall see visions.**

One: Come, O Holy Spirit, Come!

Many: **Renew in us Your Spirit today! Amen.**

*Opening Hymn: PH 319, vv. 1 & 3

Spirit

Lighting of the Christ Light

Refrain:

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
Blow through the wilderness,
calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness,
Wind, wind on the sea.*

1. You moved on the waters,
You called to the deep,

Then You coaxed up the mountains
From the valleys of sleep,
And over the eons
You called to each thing,
“Awake from your slumbers
And rise on your wings.” *Refrain*

3. You sang in a stable,
You cried from a hill,
Then You whispered in silence
When the whole world was still,
And down in the city
You called once again
When you blew through Your people
On the rush of the wind. *Refrain*

Prayer for Grounding in God’s Grace

Many: Almighty God, we confess that we continue to try to put You in a box. We tell others how to know You. We believe our way is the only way. We do not recognize or look for You in the face of others or at work in other people around us. Forgive us for thinking we have a corner on the truth. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Break open our box. Tear down our walls. Breathe into us the newness of life in the Spirit. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God’s Grace

One: God is always doing something new. God will open to us visions and dreams, and the promise of new life is made known all around us. We are forgiven, we are set back on right paths, and we know that we go forth with the love of Christ in our hearts. Therefore, let us celebrate together:

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

Sung Response:

Sweet, Sweet Spirit (refrain)

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise,
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

Scripture Reading

An interpretive retelling of the Pentecost story found in Acts of the Apostles Chapter 2

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response:

Sweet, Sweet Spirit (refrain)

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise,
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

Message for All Ages

When We Shall Leave This Place

Call to Offering & Strengthen the Church/Pentecost Special Offering

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

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

Offertory Dance

Apologize (Instrumental Version)

Ryan Tedder

arr. International Contemporary Dance Ensemble

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, one.

Prayer of Dedication

Celebrations and Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** PH 131

Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow

1. Wind who makes all winds that blow—
Gusts that bend the saplings low,
Gales that heave the sea in waves,
Stirrings in the mind's deep caves—
Aim Your breath with steady power
On Your Church this day, this hour.
Raise, renew the life we've lost,
Spirit God of Pentecost.
2. Fire who fuels all fires that burn—
Suns around which planets turn,
Beacons marking reefs and shoals,
Shining truth to guide our souls—
Come to us as one You came:
Burst in tongues of sacred flame!
Light and Power, Might and Strength,
Fill Your church, its breadth and length.
3. Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame,
Move within our mortal frame.
Make our hearts an altar pyre,
Kindle them with Your own fire.
Breathe and blow upon that blaze
Till our lives, our deeds and ways,
Speak that tongue which every land
By Your grace shall understand.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude:

Etude #3

Matteo Carcassi

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.**

Participating in Today's Worship

Message for All Ages – Rev. Adam Isbitsky

Liturgist – Rev. Rob Mark

Lector – Ryan Surette

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Guitar – Joseph Jewett

Dance – Tory Surette

Cantor – Tom Reid

Spirit Dove Puppeteer – Rowen Mark

COVER ART: JESUS MAFA, “Transfiguration” (1973). JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

The exuberant expression of joy in this depiction represents the Acts of the Apostles story, including Mary and the women mentioned in Acts, Chapter 1. Pentecost was originally an ancient Hebrew time of thanksgiving celebration for the first grain harvest, as recorded in Leviticus. The new significance given to this day by the gospel writers and early Christians extends that joyful expression to the new "filling up" by the Holy Spirit.

from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48307> [retrieved May 28, 2020]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

LITURGY NOTE: The Call to Worship, Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace, and Assurance of God's Grace are adapted from liturgy created by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, rev-o-lution.org.

PEACE BE WITH YOU IN THESE DAYS: We are delighted to welcome you to our community of faith! As we all do our part to love our neighbor as ourselves to help “flatten the curve” of the coronavirus/COVID-19, our building remains closed; all meetings and events that are offered, including worship, have shifted to an online or conference call format. We are grateful for the technology that allows the majority of us to gather together online, and we pray and work for the day the energy used to connect us becomes less dependent on dangerous, unjust, fossil fuels. And in faith and through God’s ceaseless, amazing grace—as we practice “physical distancing” we also practice “spiritual nearing” to each other and the Sweet Holy Spirit. The announcements that follow reflect the ongoing abundant life that is Church of the Covenant.

UPCOMING WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS: To further adhere to our state’s excellent social distancing policy to help flatten this curve, we have decided to suspend live-streaming from the sanctuary from Easter onwards, until further notice. In place of this, we will hold live-worship on Zoom at 10:30am.

If you are newer to using Zoom, please log in early so we can explain some technical questions in order to start our worship close to 10:30.

- Sunday, May 31, Pentecost All-ages Worship: WEAR RED 😊
- Sunday, June 7, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion
- Sunday, June 14, Celebration of the Word Service with Nica Companions
- Sunday, June 21, Rev. Adam preaching, Communion

Here are the Zoom details for Sundays:

join by computer/ tablet/ smartphone:

<https://zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTllpTTEvRGZUT09>

one tap mobile:

+16465588656,,91025989890#,,#,892502#

join by phone:

+1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 910 2598 9890, Password: 892502

Some suggestions to aid in your worship for you to consider:

1. Printing the bulletin out in advance so you have it during worship
2. Pulling the bulletin up on a second device/phone/screen
3. Pulling both the bulletin up and Zoom, and switch between them as needed. The liturgy, songs, and scripture are the important times to have this bulletin visible if possible.
4. And if none of these options work for you, no worries—just following the link will be fine – you will be able to worship fully.

CLIMATE JUBILEE DISCUSSION: Please join the Climate Jubilee Team at 12 noon on Sunday, June 7th, after our worship service, for a discussion of the connection between COVID-19 and the climate crisis. In advance of that gathering, we invite you to view and read two background informational pieces:

Councilor Wu and Bill McKibben discuss how COVID-19, injustice, and climate change are linked - and how this is the moment to advocate for a just and equitable recovery.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MggvdrllMA>

A Washington Post article on "Meat is not essential, Why are we killing for it?"

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/05/11/jonathan-safran-foer-meat-is-not-essential-why-are-we-killing-it/?arc404=true>

If you have any difficulty accessing these pieces, please contact Betty at southwickbetty@gmail.com or Barbara at barbarakdarling@yahoo.com. We look forward to an enriching conversation!

BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS: Have you always been curious, but that pre-worship Sunday morning time just hasn't worked for you? Are you eager for more ways to connect during this time of physical isolation? Then this "BYOB" (bring your own Bible) gathering is for you. If you aren't otherwise occupied and can take a break for an hour or so at 10:00 on Wednesday morning, join the gathering. We are midway through a look at Matthew's gospel, but we'll be glad to fill you in on what's come before.

join by computer/ tablet/ smartphone:

<https://zoom.us/j/104478666?pwd=MHAwdEY5VVNvdVFkbVA1R2U3Z3NnUT09>

one tap mobile:

+16465588656,,104478666#,,#,581626#

join by phone:

(646) 558 8656, Meeting ID: 104 478 666, Password: 581626

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE: We gather on Zoom from 6:00-6:30pm each Wednesday for a simple, contemplative service of prayers, singing, scripture, celebrations and concerns.

join by computer/ tablet/ smartphone:

<https://zoom.us/j/179333716?pwd=S0E3Z2t4YzZNNDErbHJrRFUyN3BYdz09>

one tap mobile:

+16465588656,,179333716#,,#,460466#

join by phone:

(646) 558 8656, Meeting ID: 179 333 716, Password: 460466

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE TIME: Each Sunday from 9:45-10:00 am via Zoom, Rev. Adam, Kathy Bull, and Anita Goncalves lead a time where children, youth, their parents, and CYCE leaders gather to sing a song, share news with each other, and pray. If you need the Zoom link, email Rev. Adam. [Rev. Adam Isbitsky](mailto:Rev.Adam.Isbitsky)

GODLY PLAY AND YOUTH CLASS: Each Sunday from 10:00-10:25 am via Zoom. CYCE leaders continue to offer programs for our children and youth, as we learn and grow alongside each other. If you need the Zoom link, email [Rev. Adam](mailto:Rev.Adam).

20s-30s-40s GROUP AT COVENANT: We have an active young adult group that meets regularly to create community, even while we can't be together physically. Join us on Monday evenings at 7:30 PM for a weekly time to pray and connect via conference call at (712) 432 - 0220, Access Code 2667480#.

If you'd like to be added to our email list, contact one of our group leaders: Kathryn Barry, Melissa Morgan, Tom Reid, or Rev. Adam at youngadults@cotcbos.org.

CONTINUED GIVING: Even in face of important, life-giving changes, our COTC ministry remains moving full steam ahead. Our staff and pastors continue to be hard at work. Our building continues to be faithfully stewarded. Our deacons and pastors continue to carry out vital pastoral care in these days. Therefore, your continued generosity and giving to help support the work of our church community is even more valued in these challenging days. And we are deeply grateful for your tangible signs of generosity. Here are a few ways you can continue to financially support the church and its ministries:

1. Directly on our website: <http://www.cotcbos.org/give.html>
2. Download free app: [GIVEPLUS+](https://giveplushelp.vancopayments.com) (GIVE+ by Vanco Services, LLC) in the App Store, Google Play, or at <https://giveplushelp.vancopayments.com>. Then, type in our zip code 02116 to find Church of the Covenant. *Both online options allow you to make a one-time or a recurring gift.*
3. If you are uncomfortable with online giving, yes, you can still mail checks!

BUILDING ACCESS: Our church building remains closed except for essential services connected with Women's Lunch Place, our Food Pantry, and a subset of our church staff (Rev. Rob, Rev. Adam, Tom Handel, Bill Brown, Faith Perry, Nancy Stockford and Chuck Ferrell), who only enter for specific and limited purposes. All other staff, church leaders, and key holders are required to keep away from the church building until further notice. The reason is to both keep you at home to keep you safe, but also to reduce any additional potential spreading of germs on doors, railings, surfaces that could endanger those who remain critical to our ministry at this point. Please contact Rev. Rob with any questions or concerns.

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

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 prayers 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, 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. And 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 creation; that transcend the exclusive language of the church's past. We invite you to join us in the journey toward God's justice and peace for all people in this neighborhood, this city, and the world.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rob Mark, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Adam Isbitsky, *Associate Pastor*

Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*

Bill Brown, *Building Manager*

Hillary Gabbidon, *Parish Administrator*

Fred Lopes, *Sunday Sexton*

Anita Goncalves, *Child Care Provider*

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*

Nancy Stockford, *Financial Secretary*