

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Celebration of the Word Service

[ZOOMLINK](#)

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant

June 14, 2020 10:30 am

Celebration of the Word / La Celebración de la Palabra

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

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Prelude: *Misión del Cristiano(Un Solo Rebaño)* Recording from E.C. Music Project

* Call To Worship

Many: **Holy One, who we so often don't recognize in our neighbors near and far,
come into our midst and make your presence known!**

**Renew our strength,
refresh our imaginations,
retool our weary efforts**

to carry your Peace into this altered world.

**Amaze us with your power to make all things new
And let us face our world with creativity and hope.
This is the day that our God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

***Opening Hymn:** NCH 440

In Christ There is No East or West

Lighting of the Christ Light

In Christ there is no East or West
In him no South or North,
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord
Close binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith
What-e'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
In Him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: God, you desire freedom for all. We confess that sometimes we are bound – by unsettling events around us, by fears lurking within us. We pray to be liberated from all that hinders us from being your salt and light in the world. And in your grace, give to us, this nation, and our world the balm of your healing presence. Your presence is light for our world. May we bask in it now...

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

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

(from the Nicaraguan Misa Campesina)

One: You are the God of the poor, the human and simple. You struggle in the countryside and town. You line up in the work camps to get your daily wage. That is why we can talk with You. You are the worker God, the worker Christ and we 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.

Introduction to Reflection on the Word

Scripture Reading: Psalm 116

I love the Lord

who has heard the voice of my supplication,
who has listened to me
whenever I called.

The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Beloved:
“O God, I pray you, save my life.”

Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

The Holy One watches over the innocent;
I was brought very low, and our God helped me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul,
for the Lord has treated you well.

For you, O God, have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of our God
in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said,
“I have been brought very low.”

In my distress I said,
“No one can be trusted.”

How shall I repay you, O God,
for all the good things you have done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon your name.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all the people.

Precious in your sight, O God
is the death of your servants.

O Holy One, I am your servant;
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to God
in the presence of all the people of God.
In the courts of the house of the Lord,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

One: God is still speaking, the word of God,
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sharing of Words (on Zoom Chat)

Second Reading of Scripture

Reflections on the Word (via Zoom Breakout Groups)

Call to Offering

Online Giving Option: <http://www.cotcbos.org/give.html>
Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General.

Offertory *No basta rezar* by Alí Primera(1984 in Venezuela),
Updated in the U.S.A., June, 2020

Chorus/ Coro: No, no, no basta rezar.
Hacen falta muchas cosas
Para conseguir la paz. (x2)

1) En el mundo no habrá paz
mientras haya explotación
de persona por persona
y exista desigualdad.(x2)

Chorus/ Coro

2) Why do we, the people white
Need so much protection?
As we tremble for our country,
as we know that God is just.(x2)

Chorus/ Coro

3) Cuando el pueblo se levante
y que todo haga cambiar,
ustedes dirán conmigo:
“No bastaba con rezar.” (x2)

Chorus/ Coro

English Translation: No, It's Not Enough to Pray

Chorus: No, it's not enough to pray.

Many things are needed to achieve peace.

1) There won't be peace in the world
while one exploits another
and while inequality exists.

2) Por qué nos, el gente blanco
Necesitamos tanta protección?
Mientras temblamos por nuestro país,
Como sabemos que Dios es justo.

3) When the people rise up and change everything,
You will say to me: “It wasn't enough to pray.”

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:** NCH 526

We Are Marching in the Light of God

1. We are marching in the light of God
We are marching in the light of God. (x2)

We are marching, we are marching, oh-hoh,
We are marching in the light of God. (x2)

2. Marchamos en la luz de Dios,
Marchamos en la luz de Dios. (x2)
Marchamos, marchamos, oh-hoh,
Marchamos en la luz de Dios. (x2)

3. We are praying in the light of God
We are praying in the light of God. (x2)
We are praying, we are praying, oh-hoh,
We are praying in the light of God. (x2)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Lord for Thy Tender Mercies Sake

Recording from
St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh

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

Worship Leaders – Nica Companions: Mocky Day, Kathy Bull, Diane Lauber, Tim Groves, Linda Pursley, Debbie Howland, Karen Henry, Byron Sipe, Rev. Rob Mark

Zoom Coordinator – Rev. Adam Isbitsky

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Photos – Taken by many including Mocky Day, Tim Groves and others, and arranged by Tom Handel into slides with music

Cantors – Austin Burns, Tom Reid, Tim Groves, Choir at St. Giles Cathedral

COVER ART: Original art taken from the album cover of “No Esta En Las Nubes”, a project to collect songs connected to the Delegate of the Word movement out of the Somotillo region in Nicaragua, as collated by the efforts and passions of late COTC member, visionary, and Nica Companion, Newell Hendricks (depicted with white beard in artwork) and Entre Culturas (www.betweencultures.org).

NOTE FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: Today's service incorporates words, music and worship styles from Covenant's sister community in Dulce Nombre de Jesús, Nicaragua. Dulce Nombre is a Base Christian Community influenced by the teachings of liberation theology.

Liberation theology interprets the teachings of Jesus in relation to liberation from unjust economic, political, or social conditions. It may be described as “an interpretation of Christian faith through the suffering of the poor, their struggle and hope, and a critique of society and Christianity through the eyes of the poor.” (Phillip Berryman)

One dramatic aspect of liberation theology is the social organization of church practice through the model of Christian base communities. The model emphasizes a “bottom-up” movement, w/ Biblical interpretation & liturgical practice designed by lay practitioners, rather than by orthodox Church hierarchy.

In much of Nicaragua, Christian base communities are seldom embraced by the official Catholic church. Nor is Liberation Theology frequently taught or practiced by religious groups in the United States. Religious organizations and leaders and ecumenical movements who share the calling to Liberation Theology come from poor communities and from those seeking to learn through the eyes of the poor. In this practice, communities choose leaders who learn from those trained and committed to Liberation Theology to lead worship services, “Celebrations of the Word.”

In today's service at Covenant, we seek to lead a “Celebration of the Word,” as many of us have learned from our sister *hermanamiento* with the Christian base community of Dulce Nombre de Jesús. This service is a reflection of some of the music, worship styles, and theology of Dulce Nombre mixed with the traditions of Church of the Covenant. We trust that participating in this Celebration together will help us imagine our faith as viewed “through the eyes of the poor.”

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, June 21 Rev. Adam preaching, Communion, Recognition of Christian Education leaders
- Sunday, June 28, Rev. Rob preaching, Special Offering for Racial Justice
- Sunday, July 5, Presbytery of Boston Unified Service

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.

CONCERT TODAY 2PM: Our own Austin Burns will be performing songs from his new album *Songs of the Sea* and his previous album *An Evening in Naples* for this special livestream acoustic concert. It will be held today, Sunday June 14th at 2:00 and can be viewed on Youtube by using this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMKmQUP_BTE

Songs of the Sea consists of his own arrangements of traditional sea shanties, many of which were popular in New Bedford (a former whaling city) where Austin now lives. If you would like to listen to the album you can also check out this link!

<https://soundcloud.com/austin-bradford-burns/sets/songs-of-the-sea/s-JGcEnOxFqVH>

For those who want to say “thank you” to Austin for the music with a financial gift, you can do so here: <https://www.paypal.me/austinbradfordburns> or Venmo (Austin-Burns-6)

TODAY 4PM ZOOM: Celebrating the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Needham. The Presbytery of Boston invites you to a service celebrating the life, mission, and ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Needham as they conclude their witness together as a congregation. A service of worship will be held today Sunday, June 14, at 4:00 pm via Zoom. All are welcome. The link for the service will go live at 3:45 pm so that everyone can join a few minutes early and be ready before the service begins.

Communion will be celebrated during the service, so be sure to have elements prepared beforehand at your home or from wherever you will be joining us.

Join Zoom: <https://curry.zoom.us/j/92281814180>

Password: 940417

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 PENTECOST PRAYER SERVICE: During the month of June, 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

UCC DELEGATES NEEDED: Our Association requests two UCC members represent Covenant at FOUR upcoming Ecclesiastical Councils: June 18th, 23rd, 25th, and 29th, all at 7:00 PM on Zoom. You do not need to be at all the dates, just one is fine! This is a time where a member in discernment for authorized ministry presents to association churches about their call and theology and delegates from each church are invited to listen and ask questions of the candidate. The delegates then vote on approving the candidate for ordination pending call. Registration is required. Contact Rev. Adam with questions or if you can represent our congregation. If you have ever been to an ecclesiastical council before you know they are fascinating gatherings!

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING: Each Sunday beginning at 9:45 our children and youth gather to sing, share news with each other, and pray together. At 10:00 we split into our Godly Play and Youth classes. 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 Adam 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+](#) (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!

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*