

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Third Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

[ZOOM LINK](#)

Presbyterian Church (USA) /United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant
June 21, 2020 10:30 am
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

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

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!
Many: **And also with you!**

Prelude: *Bifu (Breeze)* Somei Satoh

*** Call To Worship** *Psalm 86:5-10, adapt.*

One: O God, you are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

Many: Hear the prayers and cries of your people, O God.

One: In troubling days, we call on you, for you will answer.

Many: All the little gods in our lives are nothing like you, O God. There is nothing else we can worship that is like you.

One: All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O God, and shall honor your name.

Many: For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

***Opening Hymn:** PH 343, vv. 1, 2 & 4 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

Lighting of the Christ Light

1. Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end.

2. Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,

Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

4. So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: God, you place a scroll of your words inside us, and the words are revealed to us as we live our lives. Too often we twist those words around, skip over the hard parts, or just ignore them altogether. Forgive us for those times when we turned our hearts to stone, weighing down our scrolls with self-righteousness, ignorance, and lack of love. Send the fire of the Holy Spirit to warm our hearts. Help us patch up the torn parts of our scrolls, smooth them out, and learn to sing your songs in the languages of your love and justice, mercy and grace.

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

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: God's grace covers all things. Every time we discover God's words for us we are liberated from fear and death to abundant life and love. Therefore let us celebrate:

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: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah said, "You fooled me, God, and I let myself be fooled. You were too strong for me, and you triumphed. All day long, I am a laughingstock; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I must cry out, proclaiming violence and destruction. The word of God has brought me derision and reproach all day long.

"I say to myself, 'I will not mention God, nor will I speak in the name of God anymore.' But then it becomes like a fire burning in my heart, shut up in my bones. I grow weary holding it in; I cannot endure it.

"Yes, I hear the whispering of many, 'Terror all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce Jeremiah!' All my supposed friends are watching for any misstep. They say, 'Perhaps he will trip up, then we can get the better of him and take our vengeance on him.'

"But God is with me, like a mighty champion. My persecutors will trip up; they will not triumph. They will be put to utter shame, to lasting unforgettable disgrace. God Omnipotent, you who test the just, who probe both mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for I lay my case before you.

"Sing to God, praise to God, for God has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the corrupt!"

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.

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

Communion Prayer

Olivier Messiaen

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

Recognition of Christian Education Leaders

Celebrations and Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to Table

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 Fire, let us lift up our hearts!
Many: **We open our hearts to the Spirit-with-us.**
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 all the ancestors, with all the 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

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Post Communion Prayer

*Closing Hymn:

There Is a Time for Silence

1. There is a time for silence, a time to listen well,
a time to hear the painful stories others have to tell.
O God, may we who love to talk now hear the rage and fear,
and may we learn from neighbors who have long been silenced here.
2. There is a time for asking, a time to pause and pray,
there is a time to hear the prophets speak of God's new day,
to hear the words of Jesus who taught welcome, truth and love,
to hear the Spirit speaking through the ones who shout, "Enough!"
5. And there's a time to work now — to boldly say their names,
to protest and to organize, to advocate for change,
to use our voices and to stand with those who are oppressed.
As we seek justice, hand in hand, Lord, may your world be blessed.

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.**

Participating in Today's Worship

Preaching – Rev. Adam Isbitsky

Liturgist and Co-Communion Celebrant – Rev. Rob Mark

Lector – Harry Forsdick

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Cantor – Tom Reid

SERVICE NOTE: Closing hymn text copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. www.carolynshymns.com. Thanks for Betty and Arnold Rots for sending this hymn suggestion to us!

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 in faith and through God's ceaseless, amazing grace—as we practice “social 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
- Sunday, July 12, Rev. Rob preaching / Climate Jubilee Adult Ed (Noon)

Here are the Zoom details for Sundays:

join by computer/ tablet/ smartphone:

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

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.

COMMUNION PREPARATION: This Sunday we will once again celebrate communion together in an online way as we celebrate the truth that the table of Jesus is unbound and is much wider and larger than any single wooden structure in any single church sanctuary. Here are some more details for what you will need to do in advance for communion preparations before Sunday's service:

Before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread (gluten or gluten-free), a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake, or cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice—perhaps grape or cranberry—or wine, with or without alcohol. Water is also fine. Set these elements in the place where you experience worship electronically with your siblings in faith online. Perhaps you want to put them on a cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle or place a flower or plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. More instruction will be given during our liturgy in worship.

THIS WEEKEND: MASS POOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY & MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON, A DIGITAL JUSTICE GATHERING:

Led by Rev. Dr. William Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis of the Poor People's Campaign, this event reflects a broad and deep moral fusion movement. The digital "march" will take place entirely online. It is a 2.5 hour program which will be held three times this weekend: June 20 at 10am & 6pm and Sunday, June 21 6pm poorpeoplescampaign.org/june2020.

RACIAL JUSTICE SPECIAL OFFERING ON SUNDAY JUNE 28:

During worship next Sunday, we will take a special offering to split evenly between two incredible organizations working for justice locally here in Boston to counter the sins of systemic racism: [Violence in Boston](#) and [The Food Project](#). As many have become newly sensitized to the ongoing injustices and violence being perpetrated upon communities of color here in our country and city in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Arnaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, and a list that tragically goes on too long – our church recognizes the deep need to act and speak out for racial justice especially at this time. This special offering called for by our Mission & Advocacy Committee and with our Council's deep solidarity, is one small step in this ongoing work. Please prayerfully discern how you might be called to participate and [give online](#) on the 28th.

Violence in Boston, is a nonprofit endorsed recently by Rev. Liz Walker in her comments at the Boston Black Memorial, with a mission of "creating safer, healthier, and empowered black and brown communities." violenceinboston.org

The Food Project – a group recently endorsed by our Climate Jubilee Team – is focused on food justice primarily in Boston's Nubian Square, and the city of Lynn, and "believes that everyone has the right to fresh, healthy, affordable food – with a goal to transform the food system into a more just, community-engaged model that supports food security for all while connecting diverse communities to each other and to the land." thefoodproject.org

PRESBYTERY'S 21-DAY RACIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGE, JULY 5-26:

In 2017, COTC's Race & Identity Team challenged us to take part in a [21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge](#) led by Food Solutions of New England, as we looked at food justice and racial justice together. This year, our Presbytery of Boston is challenging us to take part in a similar 21-Day Racial Justice Challenge as part of our commitment to dismantling racism. The challenge will begin on Monday, July 5 and conclude on Sunday, July 26. Each day, an opportunity for education, self-reflection, and discussion is offered through the challenge put together specifically for the PC(USA). For info and to register: [21-Day Racial Justice Challenge](#).

BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS: We gather on Zoom at 10:00am for about an hour for a “BYOB” (bring your own Bible) gathering. Currently, we are taking a look at the Book of Psalms, which runs the gamut of human emotion. Drop in any week!

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 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.

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 (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 services connected with Women's Lunch Place, our Food Pantry, and a subset of our church staff (Rev. Rob, Tom Handel, Bill Brown, Alan Lane, 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. While we are not opening for our normal Open Sanctuary program this year, we have protocols in place to allow for safe group tours by appointment through Bill Brown.

STAFF NOTE: Rev. Adam will be away from June 22-July 5.

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*