





**Church of the Covenant**  
July 19, 2020 10:30 am  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Communion

<https://zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTl1pTTEvRGNZUT09>

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**Welcome & Announcements**

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

**Prelude** *Hornpipe from Water Music* G. F. Handel

**Call to Worship** *adapted from Psalm 139:7-8,11-12,23-24*

One: O God, your Spirit is everywhere!  
Many: **From the heights of the highest heaven to the bottommost depths of Sheol, you are there with us.**  
One: If we seek out the night, and try to hide in its darkness, even the night is not dark to you.  
Many: **The night is as bright as the day, for darkness and light are the same to you.**  
One: **Search us, O God, and know our heart; test us and know our thoughts.**  
Many: See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead us in the way everlasting.

**Lighting the Light of Christ**

**Opening Hymn:** PH 269 *O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand*

1. O God of Bethel, by whose hand Thy people still are fed,  
Who through this weary pilgrimage hast all Thy servants led,
2. Our vows, our prayers, we now present before Thy throne of grace;  
God of past ages, be the God of each succeeding race.
3. Through each perplexing path of life our wand'ring footsteps guide;  
Give us each day our daily bread, and raiment fit provide.

4. O spread Thy covering wings around till all our wand'rings cease,  
And at our God's beloved abode our souls arrive in peace.

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

**Many:** Ever-present God, we confess that we are people prone to wander from the way you have set before us. We do not live up to the promises we have made with others and the covenants we have made with you. Forgive us and help us turn again toward you in our hearts, in our thoughts, in our spirits, and in all we say and do.

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

### **Listening to God in Silent Prayer**

#### **Assurance of God's Grace**

**One:** God is with us through every twist and turn, high and low of our lives. God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and grace. Through Christ we are freed to live a new and abundant life. Therefore, let us celebrate:

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

## Sung Response:

## *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

*Refrain*

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

The image shows a three-system musical score for a song. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 7/8. The lyrics are: 'Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.' The word 'Refrain' is written above the first system. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

## Scripture Reading: Genesis 28:10-22

Jacob left Be'er-sheva and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and passed the night there. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it at his head and lay down. And he had a dream: there was a gateway on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and angels of God were going up and coming down it.

And GOD stood beside him and said, "I am GOD, the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of Rebekah and Isaac. The ground on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants; and your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east

and to the north and to the south; and all the tribes of the earth will bless themselves by you and your descendants. Know that I am with you. I will keep you safe wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

Then Jacob woke and said, “Truly GOD is in this place—and I never knew it!” And he was filled with trembling and said, “How awe-inspiring is this place! This is none other than the house of God, this is the gate of heaven!” Jacob rose early the next morning, and he took the stone that he had set at his head and set it up as a monument and anointed it with oil. He called that place Beth-El, which means “House of God,” but the town was previously known as Luz. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I return safely to my parent’s house, then GOD shall be my God. This stone, which I have set up as a memorial pillar, shall be God’s house; and I promise to give you back a tithe of all that You give me.”

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

## Sermon

*Catch Ya Later*

## Call to Offering

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

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

## Offertory

*Over the Rainbow/ What a Wonderful World*

arr. Tom Handel

## 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

## 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 Covenant, 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:** PH 539 vv. 1 & 3

*Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*

1. Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.  
We stand to bless Thee ere our worship cease;  
And, now departing, wait Thy word of peace.
3. Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.  
From harm and danger keep Thy children free,  
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

## 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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## Participating in Today's Worship

**Preaching** – Rev. Adam Isbitsky

**Liturgist** – Karen Henry

**Lector** – Linda Pursley

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Cantor** – Tom Reid

**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:** Please join us each Sunday at 10:30am as we come together in community through Zoom to pray, sing, share celebrations and concerns, and hear God’s still-speaking Word proclaimed. We will hold live-worship on Zoom at 10:30am.

- Sunday, July 26, Dr. Healan Gaston preaching
- Sunday, August 2, Tom Reid preaching, Holy Communion
- Sunday, August 9, McKenna Lewellen preaching,

**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 online 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. Before the time of the service you will want to gather some bread of any kind for you and those worshipping in the same place with you to break and share. Prepare a cup or cups and fill with juice, wine, or even water. Set these elements in the place where you experience worship. 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. 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.

**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 a 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](#).

**SUPPORTING BOSTON's common cathedral:** During these challenging days, the ministry of accompaniment with those experiencing homelessness in our neighborhood continues. One way to support this work is to supportive the work of common cathedral through donating sandwiches ([click here](#)), or donating items on their wish list ([click here](#)).

**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=MHAwdEY5VVNvdVEkbVA1R2U3Z3NnUT09>

*one tap mobile:* +16465588656,,104478666#,,#,581626#

*join by phone:* (646) 558 8656, Meeting ID: 104 478 666, Password: 581626

**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](mailto: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!

**SUMMER SABBATH:** Rev. Rob's annual Summer Sabbath (2 weeks unpaid furlough, 2 weeks vacation) will be July 17-August 13. Please contact Rev. Adam or chair of Deacons, Anita Gram, with pastoral needs during this time.

**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 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*