

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

[ZOOM LINK](#)

Presbyterian Church (USA) / United Church of Christ



Church of the Covenant
August 9, 2020 10:30 am
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Note: Today in worship, we're going to practice and consider things that steady us during chaos and overwhelm. You will need something to draw or write with and a piece of paper, or you can type or draw on a screen if you prefer that.

Prelude

Clouds

Joni Mitchell
arr. Tom Handel

Call To Worship

One: Let us gather ourselves to worship.

Notice your breath,
just as it is.

No need to change it,
just breathe.

Take a breath,
noticing how the air feels
as it comes into your nose.

Take a breath,
and follow the air into your lungs,
feeling them fill up and then empty.

Take a breath,
imagining the air going all the way to your toes
and to tips of your fingers.

Take a breath,
giving thanks to God
for a community that steadies us.

Take a breath,
and let us worship God together.

Lighting the Light of Christ

Opening Hymn: PH 599

Jesus, Remember Me

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system includes a fermata over the final chord. The second system includes a repeat sign at the end.

Call to Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

One: Beloved, Jesus tells us that we will know the truth and the truth will set us free. But with every day, in a groundswell of misinformation and vitriol, it becomes more difficult to know what is true and to do the work God has set before us. Today, we will confess what is true about the world in words and images.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

One: Take your paper and draw or write in response to these questions:

Where do you experience chaos right now?

What leaves you feeling overwhelmed?

Let us open ourselves to God now in prayer ...

Listening to God in Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

based on Psalm 85:8-13

One: Let us hear what God will speak to us. To those who turn to God in their hearts, God speaks words of peace. For those who love God, God's saving grace is as close as breathing. God's glory dwells among us. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down

from the sky. God will give what is good, and we will reap in good measure to what we sow. Justice and righteousness pave the way for God's path. Therefore, let us celebrate:

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

Sung Response:

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics: 'Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our'. The second system contains the lyrics: 'hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your'. The third system contains the lyrics: 'prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.' The music is in the key of D major and 7/8 time. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Scripture Reading: Gospel According to Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately, Jesus insisted that the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray, remaining there alone as night fell. Meanwhile, the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

At about three in the morning, Jesus came walking toward them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it's me; don't be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come."

So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are a Son of God."

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Steadying Among the Ghosts

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

Veni Sancte Spiritus (Come, Holy Spirit)

Taizé

The congregation is invited to sing

The image shows a musical score for the offertory. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the lyrics are placed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus." The music is simple and suitable for congregational singing.

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 505

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Maker's throne
let all my needs and wants be known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by your return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for your return!
With them I hasten to the place
where I would know my Savior's face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
whose wings shall my petition bear
to One whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.

And since I'm bid to seek God's face,
believe God's word, and trust God's grace,
I'll cast away my every care,
and wait for you, sweet hour of 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.**

Participating in Today's Worship

Preacher – McKenna Lewellen

Liturgist – Rev. Jack Ammerman

Lector – Evelyn Kimber

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Vocalists – Tom Reid, Austin Burns, Adam Isbitsky, Arnold Rots, Anita Gram,
Kathryn Barry, Tom Handel

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, August 16, Rev. Adam Isbitsky preaching, Holy Communion
- Sunday, August 23, joint online worship service with Burlington Presbyterian Church and Clinton Presbyterian Church

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.

SACRED PRACTICES IN TIMES OF UPHEAVAL: Continuing with our theme of worship this morning, the ongoing PsalmSeason program co-hosted by the Miller Center for Interreligious Learning and leadership at Hebrew College will host a special program on Monday, August 10 from 5:00-6:30PM on Zoom. “Sacred Practices in Times of Upheaval” is an interactive exploration with a group of esteemed community leaders and ritual-makers on the role of sacred practices in this time of upheaval. Panelists include Dr. Acharya Judith Simmer-Brown, Rev. Dr. Leslie Callahan, Casper ter Kuile, and Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie. Contact Miller Center Associate Director Tom Reid with questions and register at this link: <https://hebrewcollege.edu/sacred-practices-in-time-of-upheaval-event-rsvp/>.

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=MHAwdEY5VVNvdVFkbVA1R2U3Z3NnUT09>

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 we gather using Zoom for Godly Play and Youth Class. Our Godly Play class gathers to sing, share news with each other, pray together, and hear ancient and contemporary stories of our faith. Our Youth Class shares their weekly gathering rituals and explores topics of interest and curiosity in faith and identity. If you need a Zoom link, email children@cotcbos.org.

20s-30s-40s GROUP AT COVENANT: We have an active young adult group that meets regularly to create community. 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#. We'll be holding our final 7:30 PM Monday evening prayer time with Rev. Adam in-person on August 17 outdoors at the Boston Public Garden. Physical distancing, face coverings, and reservations required here: <https://forms.gle/7ATE5irRrjmWJRoV7>. For questions, contact one of our group leaders: Kathryn Barry, Melissa Morgan, Tom Reid, or Rev. Adam at youngadults@cotcbos.org. If you'd like to be added to our email list, email covenant-boston-subscribe@googlegroups.com.

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

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*