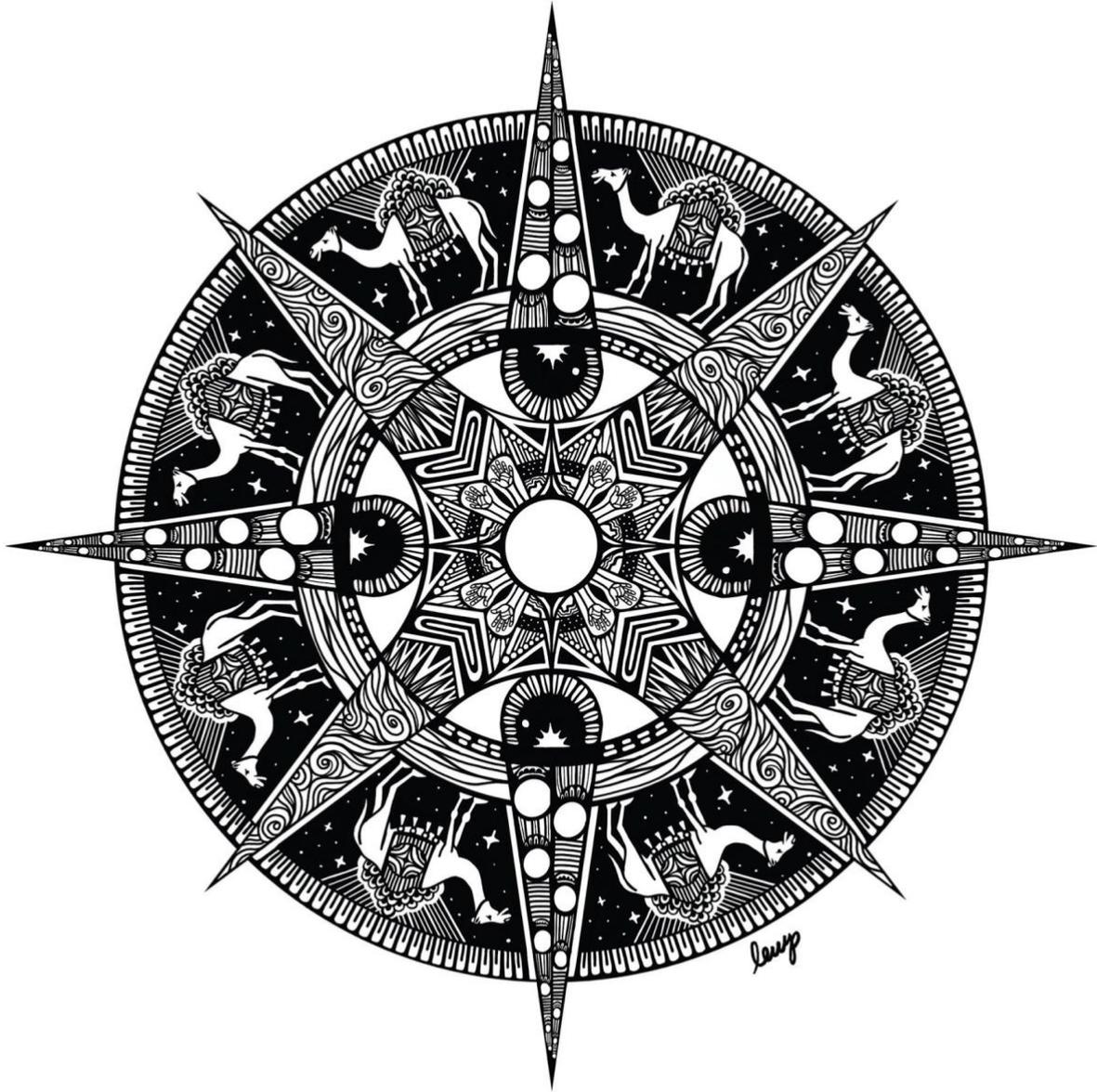


Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



Third Sunday in Epiphany

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

ZOOM LINK (click here)



**Church of the Covenant
Third Sunday in Epiphany**

January 24, 2021 10:30 am

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlIpTTEvRGNZUT09>

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Prelude

Call To Worship

One: We gather on this day full of hope, anticipating change.

Many: **We wait for God's word for us.**

One: May our hearts and spirits be open to God's will to do what is right and what is true.

Many: **God is our strength and salvation.**

One: We wait patiently for our God.

Many: **With willing hearts and spirits, we wait for the Lord.**

Lighting the Christ Light

Opening Hymn (NCH, 438)

When Peace, Like a River

Verse 1

When peace, like a river, upholds me each day,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain

It is well (*it is well*) with my soul (*with my soul*);
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Verse 2

Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,
let this bless'd assurance control:

that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has given life and love to my soul. *Refrain*

Verse 3

O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear;
even so, it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

One: Holy God,
In you rests the expectation of change and the anticipation of
hope. You called all that is into being and offered humanity life
in all its fullness. Yet we have allowed good relationships to be
broken. We have become distant from you and our neighbor.

Many: Our God have mercy.

One: At times we have failed to speak out for justice,
leaving the voiceless without an advocate.

Many: Christ have mercy.

One: To all who fall short of God's glory you offer pardon and
peace.

Many: Our God have mercy.

One: Let us open ourselves to silent prayer.

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, God's sudden faithfulness exists in the world today.
God forgives, renews, and restores. Therefore, let us be watchful
for the immediate expectation of God's grace performed as we
celebrate together:

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

Sung Response

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Gloria

Scripture Readings

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, *King James Version*

Behold, I shew you a mystery;
We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

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

Sermon

At the Last Trump

Call to Offering

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

Offertory

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ 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

Verse 1

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home;

Verse 2

Under the shadow of your throne, your saints have dwelt secure.
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Verse 3

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

Verse 4

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Verse 5

Time, like an ever rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream fades at the opening day.

Verse 6

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!

Charge & 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 – Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

Liturgist – Rev. Rob Mark

Lector – Kathryn Barry

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.

UPCOMING WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS: Please join us each Sunday at 10:30 am as we come together in community through Zoom to pray, sing, share celebrations and concerns, and hear God’s still-speaking Word proclaimed.

- January 31, Rev. Kate preaching, New Comers coffee hour and denominational meetings
- February 7, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion / Annual Meeting
- February 14, Rev. Joshua preaching
- Wednesday, February 17, Ash Wednesday service, time TBD

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. Parts of the liturgy are important 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.

NEXT SUNDAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP NEW COMERS COFFEE HALF-HOUR WITH REV. JOSHUA AND REV. ROB: If you are at all new or new-ish to our community (perhaps newly worshipping with us since we began on Zoom) – we’d love the chance to gather informally with you next week over shared coffee – kindly brew and bring your own! Zoom details to come.

TOM REID'S ORDINATION! Please join us on Zoom on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 3pm as we celebrate together in a service of the Presbytery of Boston, the ordination of our beloved Tom Reid to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). [Registering is required, click here.](#)

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS: Our next Weds. Evening prayer will be on Weds. Jan. 20, 6-6:30pm. Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88999202076?pwd=bU9XQ0JuR0F1bXhrTUV2eVBDcHIxdz09>

ANNUAL MEETING & ANNUAL DENOMINATIONAL MEETINGS: Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021 following worship on Zoom. Our annual meetings of each denomination will be on Sunday, January 31, 2021 following worship on Zoom.

THE DENOMINATIONAL MEETINGS of the Central Congregational Society (Barbara Darling, chair) and the First Presbyterian Society (Nancy Hollomon, chair) will be held on 31 January 2021 at 11:50 AM for the purpose of electing the nominees – Ken Bitner (UCC) and Joe Waters (PCUSA) – to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2 years in the class of 2022.

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATION AND CONGREGATION will be held on Sunday February 7, 2021 at 11:45 AM on Zoom for the purpose of adopting the 2021 budget, electing 3 members to the Covenant Council for a 3-year term, 4 members to the Board of Deacons for a 3-year term, 1 member to the Board of Deacons for a 2-year term, and accepting 2 members to the nominating committee as elected at the denominational meetings.

BIBLE STUDY - FRIDAYS 11AM: Our virtual Bible Study is meeting at 11:00 am on Fridays, studying the Gospel of Mark. Questions? Please contact Nancy Ammerman at ntammerman@gmail.com. We gather on Zoom for about an hour for a “BYOB” (bring your own Bible) gathering. Drop in any week! No homework required! <https://zoom.us/j/104478666?pwd=MHAWdEY5VVNvdVFkbVA1R2U3Z3NnUT09>
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 or contact Rev. Kate at kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org.

20s-30s-40s GROUP AT COVENANT: We are currently planning our calendar of events through the Lenten season. Please be on the lookout for upcoming virtual events. If you would like to be added to our email list, contact Rev. Joshua at joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org

LENT IS COMING (DEVOTIONALS): Lent begins Feb. 17 with our Ash Wednesday service on Zoom at 6:30pm. In preparation for this season, our Worship and Music committee would like to let you know you will all be provided with a free PDF copy of A Sanctified Art daily Lenten devotional. In addition, for those who prefer booklets to hold, here are some we recommend (please let Rob know if you have any financial limitations and we will purchase a copy for you):

- *Were You There*
- *Wild Hope - Stories for Lent from the Vanishing*
- *Lent in Plain Sight*
- *Lent of Liberation: Confronting the legacy of American slavery*

EVERSOURCE SCAM: Just so everyone is aware, there are scammers calling claiming to be from Eversource saying your power will be shut off in 30-40 minutes due to a pending balance. The automated call then gives a 866 number to call to make a payment. I called the Eversource customer service line, who said they always call 24 hours before power is shut off. They say there have been several of these scam calls recently. ~ Kathryn

A CHALLENGING WINTER: For many reasons, this will be a challenging winter. One way we can help those experiencing homelessness in downtown Boston is to support our partners Women's Lunch Place, who have an ongoing wish list for items, found here: <https://womenslunchplace.org/in-kind-donations>.

ARE YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW FACING FINANCIAL CHALLENGES? Info on fuel and electricity discounts in MA available [here](#).

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 prayer 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 identity, 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. 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 of creation; that transcend the exclusive language of the church's past. And as stewards, we seek to live into the Spirit's blessing as we move in solidarity on this shared and sacred, common home we call earth. We invite you to join us in the journey toward God's justice and peace for all of Boston and beyond!

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rob Mark, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Joshua Lazard, *Associate Pastor*

Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*

Bill Brown, *Building Manager*

Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator / Parish Administrator*

Nancy Stockford, *Financial Secretary*

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*