

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Season of Creation
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
ZOOM LINK ([click here](#))



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Season of Creation

Holy Communion

October 18, 2020 10:30 am

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTllpTTEvRGZUT09>

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Call To Worship

Psalm 146

One: Praise God! Praise God, O my soul!

Many: **We will praise God as long as we live;
We will sing praises to our God all our life long.**

One: Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

Many: **When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of the ancestors,
whose hope is in the Holy One their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith for ever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

Many: **Who sets the prisoners free;
who opens the eyes of the blind.
Who lifts up those who are bowed down;
who loves the righteous.
God watches over the strangers;
upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked, brings to ruin.**

One: God will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Many: **Praise the Holy One!**

Lighting the Light of Christ

Opening Hymn:

God, You Made Your Good Creation
Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D

God, you made your good creation and you hold it in your care —
From each starry constellation to each forest under-layer.
Tiny creatures, mountain splendor, rivers, lakes and ocean floors —
You are loving, kind and tender in your care for what is yours.

Yet, O God, the earth is crying, times are changing, storms are strong.
Now the coral reefs are dying, floods are raging, droughts are long.
Though the circumstances differ, when the earth is in distress,
See! The poor are first to suffer from our greed and selfishness.

God, you love this world we live in, so you sent your only Son.
“Here on earth as in your heaven,” God, we pray, “Your will be done.”
By your Spirit, may we listen to the earth and to the poor;
May we care for all you’ve given till creation is restored.

Text: Copyright © 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used with permission.

Prayer for Grounding in God’s Grace

One: Knowing we are both called as stewards of God’s creation and often, because of our choices, complicit in its harm, let us pray together for grounding in God’s grace using the words of the prophet Hosea:

Many: **“There is no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God in the land.
Swearing, lying and murder, and stealing and infidelity break out; bloodshed follows bloodshed.
Therefore, the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing.” (Hosea 4:1-3)**

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

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God’s Grace

One: Friends, having confessed with Hosea, let us give thanks with Ezekiel:

“Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish... it will become fresh... but its swamps and marches will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food... their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.” (Ezekiel 47:9-12)

Together with the fish and the trees in the hope for healing, let us celebrate...

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

Sung Response:

Song of Hope / Canto de esperanza

May the God of hope go with us everyday,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
Singing, share our joy with all;
Working, for a world that's new;
Faithful, when we hear Christ's call.

Scripture Readings:

New Testament Reading: Romans 8:19-25

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet”?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Climate Jubilee 1 of 2: *Love Looks Ridiculous*

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

Sun's Rising

Ronald Perera

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

(in unison)

**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 514

Let us Talents and Tongues Employ

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy
Bread is broken the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around, loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,
Teaching people to live and bless, love in word and in deed express
Refrain

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share, God (Im-man-u-el) everywhere!
Refrain

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. Rob Mark

Liturgist – Betty Southwick

Co-Celebrant Communion – Rev. Joshua Lazard

Lector – Nancy Hollomon

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Cantor – Tom Reid

Cover Image – Climate Jubilee banner on sanctuary by Kristen Young

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.

COMMUNION PREPARATION: Today we will 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 or beside a photo or art that reminds you of the wider world. More instruction will be given during our liturgy in worship.

YES ON 2! ADULT ED TODAY: Directly following worship on the same Zoom link, please join our Climate Jubilee Team as they host another adult education session focused on the upcoming election. This session will be focused on our local election and the second ballot question related to Rank Choice Voting. We will welcome Andy Anderson and Rev. Vernon Walker who will speak to us about this question and encourage us to vote yes on this question 2 in order to provide for a more robust and representative democratic process in future elections.

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.

- Sundays, October 11-25 Season of Creation Special Series on Climate Jubilee:
 - October 11 Blessing of the Animals Service
 - October 18 Communion, Rev. Rob preaching on climate jubilee
 - October 25 Rev. Rob preaching on climate jubilee

Upcoming Sunday Adult Eds following worship:

- *Oct. 18 – Question 2 on MA Ballot – Rank Choice Voting with Rev. Vernon Walker & Andy Anderson, followed by Informal Coffee Half-hour getting to know Rev. Joshua*

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.

GETTING TO KNOW REV. JOSHUA 12:15pm this Sunday: While our new Associate Pastor Rev. Joshua Lazard is now entering his second month with us, during this COVID-Zoom-based chapter in our lives, we recognize it is more challenging than usual to get chances to meet and get to know Joshua – and he, you. So, we will set up a few times to share a virtual coffee with him in the spirit of getting to know each other. The first is this Sunday directly following the 30 minute adult ed related to the Yes on 2 campaign. So simply linger on Zoom after that meeting for an informal time of 20-30 minutes to get to know each other. Additional “coffees with Rev. Joshua” will emerge this fall – stay tuned!

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS 6-6:30pm: Our next Weds. Evening prayer will be Weds. Oct. 28, 6-6:30pm, and will be specially focused on praying for the election. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88999202076?pwd=bU9XQ0JuR0F1bXhrTUV2eVBDcHIxdz09>

Please email Rev. Rob if you have questions: rob.mark@cotcbos.org (note there will be no prayers this coming Wednesday 10/21).

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!

<https://zoom.us/j/104478666?pwd=MHAwdEY5VVNvdVFkbVA1R2U3Z3NnUT09>

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

STAFF TRANSITION: As we have the past two weeks, we are sorry to share Hillary Gabbidon, our Parish Administrator for the past two years, has taken on another full time position with Gordon-Conwell, and so has finished her work with us on Oct 4. Yet we rejoice with God for this new chapter in her life, and pray her all the blessings and peace in this new transition, and give thanks for her ministry with us since 2018.

NEW STAFF BEGINNING: We also give great thanks to God that our Council has voted to hire Rev. Kate Carlisle (pronouns: they/ them) to take on two separate positions – Children & Youth Christian Education Coordinator (10 hours/ week) and Parish Administrator (10 hours/ week) beginning this coming Tuesday Oct. 20,. Please stay tuned for ways to welcome Kate and get to know them more fully. We are excited about this new beginning! Let's keep it in our prayers.

HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST: At this important time as our nation and church face the realities of racial justice, police brutality and white supremacy with renewed intention, please consider joining us for this next church book discussion. For our Covenant book group discussion in October we have agreed to read and discuss Ibram X. Kendi's *How to Be an Anti-Racist*. We'll meet via Zoom to discuss that book on **Sunday, Oct 25, at 5 pm.**

ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/96038209113> Meeting ID: 960 3820 9113

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, even while we can't be together physically. We are in the midst of settling on a weekly night for zoom check-in and prayers. If you'd like to share what night works best for you, or if you would like to be added to our email list, contact one of our group leaders: Kathryn Barry, Tom Reid, Rev. Joshua at youngadults@cotcbos.org.

NEW DIRECTORY: Thanks to our Membership Development Committee, a new updated directory is being emailed out this coming week – stay tuned!

40 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THIS COUNTRY: Our siblings in faith at the Sudbury Presbyterian Church invite us to join them in praying each day in advance of the election:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1110322783198&ca=63f9a378-df7d-485d-95d4-45cc613bce3a>

VOTE: Questions about if you are registered, where or how to vote?

<https://www.environmentalvoter.org/>

BALLOT QUESTION #2 – Adult Ed following worship on Sunday, October 18, we welcome Andy Anderson & Rev. Vernon Walker who will speak to us about the importance of voting Yes on 2 to help bring Rank Choice Voting to our Commonwealth. yeson2rcv.com

CONGREGATION CLIMATE JUSTICE VOTER CHALLENGE: Our Council voted unanimously on August 18 to join the Congregation Climate Justice Voter Challenge initiated by the Southern New England Conference of the UCC. Needless to say, our country is at an important crossroads this year and our ability to address and deal with climate change and climate justice issues, as well as other important social justice issues which are important to us, will be affected by our elections this Fall. This is true at all levels – local, state and Federal. So voter engagement is crucial! And Council accepted the recommendation of the Climate Jubilee Team to join this Challenge for at least 75% of our members to sign. So please sign!--at this link: (<https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/CreationCareVoterPledge>) By signing the Pledge, one simply says that they “pledge to be a consistent voter” and “always to prioritize caring for God’s creation in how I vote.” The Challenge has two levels: First, individual congregations are asked to challenge themselves to have a least 75% of their members commit to being faithful and regular voters. Second, the Southern New England Conference's Environmental Ministries Team hopes that many churches in MA, CT and RI will join in accepting the Challenge for their congregations.

More information (<https://www.sneucc.org/congregation-climate-justice-voter-challenge>).

VIRTUAL SUPER SATURDAY (UCC): Saturdays October 24, 2020 and October 31, 2020, 9am-3pm, \$10 <https://www.sneucc.org/planning-event-detail/12871453?month=10&year=2020&day=1&display=m>

A SAINT FOR ALL SAINTS: A Conversation about the Life and Legacy of The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray – Sunday November 1, 2020, 4 pm on ZOOM - Emmanuel Church, Boston. Register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_v3ryu-dxRCegmHvnFVyXtg

Panelist include:

- Melissa Wood Bartholomew, Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging at Harvard Divinity School and racial justice and healing practitioner;
- The Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Canon Theologian at the National Cathedral, Dean of Episcopal Divinity School, and leader in womanist theology and racial reconciliation;
- The Rev. Dr. Cameron Partridge, openly transgender theologian and Rector of St. Aidan's San Francisco.

Moderated by The Rev. Dr. Yolanda Rolle, Episcopal-Anglican Chaplain at Howard University.

MOURNING ALL THE SAINTS (UCC): It has been a year of abundant grief. On top of the pain and loss we experience collectively in what we used to call “normal” times, this year has added 205,000 (and counting) Saints to the numbers of those who have gone before. This year has added trauma and pain and loss in ways that continue to hold our hearts captive. This year has called a reckoning of systems towards Justice, and the slow pains of growth and awareness and the impact of struggle on people trying to hold it together. And this year has called us to cling fast to faith with clarity and strength and prayer. So in calling on our faith that all those who have gone before are in community with All Saints, you are invited to join us in honoring those who have passed, especially to COVID-19, for a service of All Saints with music, prayer, and lifting of names. We will gather via Zoom on November 1st at 6pm ET. To contribute a name to the visual list of people in memoriam, simply fill out this [form](#) and the name will be included. To register:

https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bd5OnOMhSdWmn5OefEi_ZQ

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*
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*