

Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



Season of Creation: Climate Jubilee
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
ZOOM LINK ([click here](#))



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Season of Creation: Climate Jubilee

October 25, 2020 10:30 am

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTllpTTEvRGNZUT09>

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Prelude *Simple Gifts (Appalachian Spring)*

Aaron Copland

Call To Worship

Psalm 65:5-8

One: O God of our liberation;

Many: **You are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.**

One: By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

Many: **You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.**

One: Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;

Many: **You make the gateways of the morning and the evening
shout for joy.**

Lighting the Light of Christ

Opening Hymn:

God, Creation Sings Your Praises

Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D

God, creation sings your praises; mountains echo from afar.
All your blessings here amaze us; hills rejoice how great you are!
In the whole of your creation, in each sea and wood and glade,
We are called to have dominion over all that you have made.

Lord, you give creation limits so creation will be blessed.
You set planets in their orbits; you give days for Sabbath rest.
You make fruit not for consuming, things to stay where they are found,
And with great disaster looming — fuel to keep within the ground.

Still, your limits aren't to crush us, or to stifle or devour.
Sun and tide and wind refresh us, giving light and warmth and power.
You give new imagination, love to heal our neighbors' pain,
Lives to build up your creation till the earth is whole again.

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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 Isaiah:

Many: **"I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its caretaker, and the donkey its steward's crib; but the United States* does not know, my people do not understand. Ah sinful nation, people laden with iniquity, offspring who do evil, children who deal corruptly. Your country lies desolate, your cities burned with fire; in your very presence others devour your land; it is desolate, overthrown..." (Isaiah 1:2-7).**

**used in place of Israel*

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 Isaiah, 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:

Hebrew Bible Reading: Psalm 93

God is in control. Clothed in majesty, equipped with strength.
God established the earth, it shall never be moved.
Your reign is established from of old. You are from everlasting.
The floods have lifted up, O God. The floods have lifted up their voice. The
floods are roaring.
More majestic than the thunders of such mighty waters. More awesome
than the waves of the sea,
Soaring on high is God!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Hebrew Bible Reading: Psalm 98:7-9

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of GOD, who is coming to liberate the earth.

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

Sermon

Climate Jubilee 2 of 2: *Giving All You Got*

“Church Happens” Moment for Generosity

Call to Offering

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

Offertory

All Good Gifts (Godspell)

Stephen Schwartz

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: PH 391

Take My Life (verses 1, 2, 4, 6)

1. Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise, let them flow in endless praise.

2. Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

4. Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

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 – Rev. Joshua Lazard

Lector – Linda Pursley

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Cantors – Betsy & Tim Groves, 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.

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 later today, **Sunday, Oct 25, at 5 pm.**

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

VIGILS AND PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION: Some 70+ percent of Americans report significant anxiety about this upcoming national election (on both sides of political divide). One of our callings is to pray. For peace. For all voices, votes and bodies to matter. For national conversion to the ways of love and compassion we know as the way of God's kin-dom. So, join us in prayer. We will hold a day-time virtual vigil on election eve from 7-11pm and day – sign up here for a one-hour slot (please just sign up for only one slot, to allow more to share the prayer 😊)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094AAEAD29A1FC1-election>

And please don't worry about the 1-hour part of this. We simply ask that during that hour, you mostly avoid screens/ phones/ computers, perhaps light a candle, go outside, read some written prayers or scripture, write or journal, listen to music that is sacred to you, make music or sing, meditate in silence, or perhaps, simply slow down, and be. There is no right or wrong way to spend this hour – simply mark it. I trust this will end up being a gift to you and our wider community around this election. Once you sign up for a slot, put it on your calendar so you don't forget. Questions? Email Rob – rob.mark@cotcbos.org

COTC POST ELECTION VIRTUAL DROP-IN CHECK-IN: We are setting aside and holding some space to gather as a community and simply check-in with each other following the election on **Thursday, November 6, 6-7pm** on Zoom. The agenda will be just to check in with each other – knowing we may or may not have clarity on the state of leadership in our country at that point. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84908685471?pwd=Z2RZWlU1eHVqbFNFdVI3N29VUytUdz09>

CONNECT & REFLECT: ELECTION EDITION PRAYERS FOR THIS LAND: Join our wider Eco-Stewards community in some earth based prayers around the election on Weds. Oct 28 and Weds. Nov. 4 at 8pm: RSVP at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1284353078584157> and <https://www.facebook.com/events/764482137730770/>

DE-ESCALATION TRAINING FOR FAITH LEADERS: In advance of what could be an uncertain election with possibilities of confusion and contention – Rev. Rob has invited some trained faith organizers from the Climate Disobedience Center to provide a de-escalation training for clergy and faith leaders on Friday 10/30, 10am-noon. If you or someone you know might be interested, please be in touch with Rev. Rob.

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, Season of Generosity Begins

Upcoming Sunday Adult Eds following worship:

- Nov. 1 – **New Comers Coffee with Rev. Joshua and Rev. Rob:** if you are at all new or new-ish to our community (perhaps newly worshiping with us since we began on Zoom – we’d love the chance to gather informally with you over shared coffee – kindly brew and bring your own 😊)

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. 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.

SEASON OF GENEROSITY: “CHURCH Happens” This year we will focus our season Oct. 25-Nov. 15 on how grateful we are for all that goes in to making church “happen” in light of all the chaos, and in God’s grace. Letters will go out the week of Oct. 26, so please be in touch by Nov. 1 if you don’t receive.

NEW STAFF BEGINNING: We give great thanks to God that Rev. Kate Carlisle (pronouns: they/ them) has begun ministry with us, taking on two separate positions – Children & Youth Christian Education Coordinator (10 hours/ week) and Parish Administrator (10 hours/ week). Please stay tuned for ways to welcome Kate and get to know them more fully. We are prayerfully excited about this new beginning! You can reach Kate at kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org.

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.

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

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 – please be in touch with Trudi Veldman if you have not received it by this week.

BOO! ELECTION SEASON NOT SCARY ENOUGH? Join COTC member Austin Braford Burns for his Halloween Pop songs free online concert today at 2pm
(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCntwZvUdFjBzHn1Fywo-YQ?view_as=subscriber). We could all use a little seasonal spooky musical fun...

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: Have you voted yet? Have you encouraged a friend or family member to vote yet? Early voting is happening, even at beloved Fenway Park. 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 welcomed Andy Anderson who spoke to us about the importance of voting Yes on 2 to help bring Rank Choice Voting to our Commonwealth. More info in case you missed it: 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.brtaapp.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> Note: Rev. Julie Avis Rogers will be leading a workshop on 10/31, 10am.

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

ARE YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW FACING FINANCIAL CHALLENGES? Info on fuel and electricity discounts in MA:

<https://www.greennewton.org/experiencing-financial-difficulty-you-may-be-eligible-for-electricity-and-fuel-discounts/>

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*