

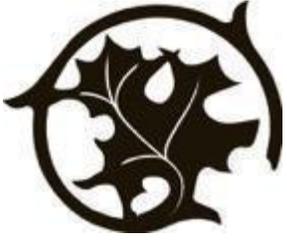
Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



Transfiguration Sunday

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

ZOOM LINK (click here)



Church of the Covenant
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 14, 2021 10:30 am

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlIpTTEvRGZUT09>

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Black History Month Moment

Prelude

Skating

Vince Guaraldi

Call to Worship

One: Gathering in this sacred place we anticipate new wonders each week.

Many: **Wherever two or three are gathered to worship, the Holy Spirit is present.**

One: Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed, even this day, even in this place.

Many: **We will want to linger and camp in this sanctuary, but when we leave today may our hearts be open to all the wonders of God's beautiful world.**

One: We gather to be transformed.

Many: **We gather to be changed.**

Lighting the Christ Light

Opening Hymn (NCH 184)

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

1. O wondrous sight, O vision fair
of glory that the church shall share,
which Christ upon the mountain shows,
where brighter than the sun Christ glows!

2. From age to age the tale declare,
how with the three disciples there,

where Moses and Elijah meet,
they with Christ God's future greet.

3. The law and prophets there have place,
two chosen witnesses of grace;
the Voice of God out from the cloud
Proclaims the Human One aloud.

4. With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today
what glory shall be theirs beyond
who live within God's loving bond.

5. And faithful hearts are raised on high
by this great vision's mystery,
for which in joyful strains we raise
the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: Forgive us, O God, when we linger too long by waters, and on the mountain tops, too enthralled with the glory that flows from you, forsaking those who remain in the valley. Forgive us when we fail to listen to your voice, leading and guiding us down our mountains of privilege and away from the still waters of entitlement. Shake us from our contentment and send us forward endowed with your power.

One: Let us open ourselves to silent prayer.

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, hear this good news: The God of Elijah, the God of Moses and the God of Jesus desires form over fashion and actions over lip service. Love God and do the right thing and forgiveness shall be your friend and mercy your true companion.

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

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

Scripture Readings**Old Testament:** 2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on.

Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

Sermon

Transfigured Moments

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision

arr. David Hamilton

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.**

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 – Barbara Darling

Lector – Donald Denniston

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Cantor – Tim and Betsy Groves

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.

COTC “COMMUNITY AS MISSION” MISSION FAIR TODAY:

Following worship today on Zoom, our Mission & Advocacy Committee invites you to a mission fair to learn about and celebrate the many tendrils of mission and advocacy that make up our life together as a congregation. Come find out how all ages, all places in life, all passions and vocational callings make up the community that is Covenant, and hear how we see all of this as essential to the missional call of our loving God. Join us if you are new to our congregation, join us if you have been here since before you can remember – either way, we are sure you will leave this fair inspired by the breadth and depth of what the Spirit is doing through and among us! More information can be found in the [handout here](#). A day to give thanks for LOVE, indeed.

STAFF VACATIONS: Rev. Rob will be taking the week off to mark school vacation week, Feb. 13-20. During his time off, please be in touch with Rev. Joshua or our Deacons with any pastoral concerns.

VACCINATIONS: As we all know, our Commonwealth is in the process of ensuring everyone gets a COVID-19 vaccine according to MA/CDC guidelines/phasing – yet the process can feel a bit daunting. As we give thanks for the miraculous reality of these vaccines, we lament the unequal access still in our state, and the confusing roll out. If you are feeling confused, you are not alone, and we are here to help. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Rob, Joshua, Kate or our Deacons if you could use some help in making sense of this and making a plan to get vaccinated. We also recommend everyone be in touch with their PCP as a first step. And remember, even in the face of a long history of unequal health care access, we at COTC deeply believe in the importance and efficacy of this vaccine as a necessary next step in reaching public health. Here are some helpful websites: <https://www.macovidvaccines.com/> and <https://www.cic-health.com/vaccines-location#fenway> in addition to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates>

Season of Lent

Special Announcements

A Note from the Pastor

Our theme this year for the season of Lent is “Breathe.” In this world where too many still cannot find a breath, we all need to strive together to breathe more deeply, more regularly, more generously. We need to do so physically, spiritually, and with the justice of Jesus in our lungs and actions. Join us starting on Ash Wednesday, February 17, through Easter, for this important and timely spiritual journey. At the beginning of each worship service Sunday morning, we will spend a little sacred time learning how to breathe better.

ASH WEDNESDAY & ASH PREPARATION: Friends, join us this coming Wednesday, 2/17 at 6:30pm on Zoom, as we sing together: “Sunday’s Palms are Wednesday’s ashes, as another Lent begins.” This year, we won’t be in person to remain COVID-safe. We also chose not to make ashes from last year’s palms and send them in packets to you all, to be consistent with our focus on climate justice (lots of plastic bags in the mail = non-eco or time friendly). But, we still deeply value the ritual of remembering that we are dust, remembering that we are from the earth and that God still calls us beloved. Therefore, we incite you to get creative in advance of this service and bring with you some form of ashes.

Some suggestions:

- Find a little soil (sacred dirt) from a house plant (if not immunocompromised/ allergic), or from under the snow(!?), and mix it with a little water/cooking oil in a dish
- Make some ash from matches or a candle wick, and mix with a little olive/cooking oil in a dish.
- Ground up black eye shadow...
- Rumor has it burnt wine corks leave a good smudge...
- Air – if none of the above works, simply use your finger to trace the sign of the cross on your forehead when invited, remembering together.

The Zoom link for the Ash Wednesday service is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87499175855?pwd=MXdFS0pKUXJlLcHpPczBKYmRKU3BvUT09>

Please note this link is different from our usual Sunday link.

EVENING PRAYERS: In place of our weekly evening prayers, please join us for our Ash Wednesday service.

LENT 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 is providing you all with a free PDF copy of A Sanctified Art daily Lenten devotional: download [here](#). 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

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.

- Wednesday, February 17, Ash Wednesday service, 6:30pm
- Sunday February 21, Lent 1 *Breathe*, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion

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.

FACING OUR RACISM WORKSHOP: Our friends at Co-operative Metropolitan Ministry are organizing an excellent few hours long workshop, \$45, “Facing Our Racism: Becoming Conscious Partners” on Sunday, February 28, noon-4:30pm – [click here to register](#).

COVENANT BOOK GROUP MEETS 2/21 TO DISCUSS *CASTE* BY ISABEL WILKERSON: The next meeting of Covenant's book group will be Sunday, February 21, at 5 PM. We will meet by Zoom –see link below – to discuss the first half of the book *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. As always, you are welcome to join whether or not you have read the book and whether or not you've ever come to a Covenant book discussion before. Email Barbara if you have questions, barbarakdarling@yahoo.com. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://wheatoncollege-edu.zoom.us/j/91347027130>

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

COTC 101, MARCH 14: Are you new-ish to Church of the Covenant and want to find out more about who we are, our history, our two denominations, and our 5-point missional plan we feel called by God to live out through 2025? Then please join us after worship on Sunday, March 14 for an hour or so on Zoom while we cover some of these topics together. Bring some coffee, lunch, snacks perhaps to your comfy-iest chair/ couch as we zoom in together. Register [here](#).

TOM REID'S ORDINATION VIDEO: What a wonderful service of celebration and thanksgiving last month as we took part in *Rev. Tom Reid's* ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA – congrats and blessings Tom! If you missed it, here it is: <https://youtu.be/LPibEEIF-s>

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

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*