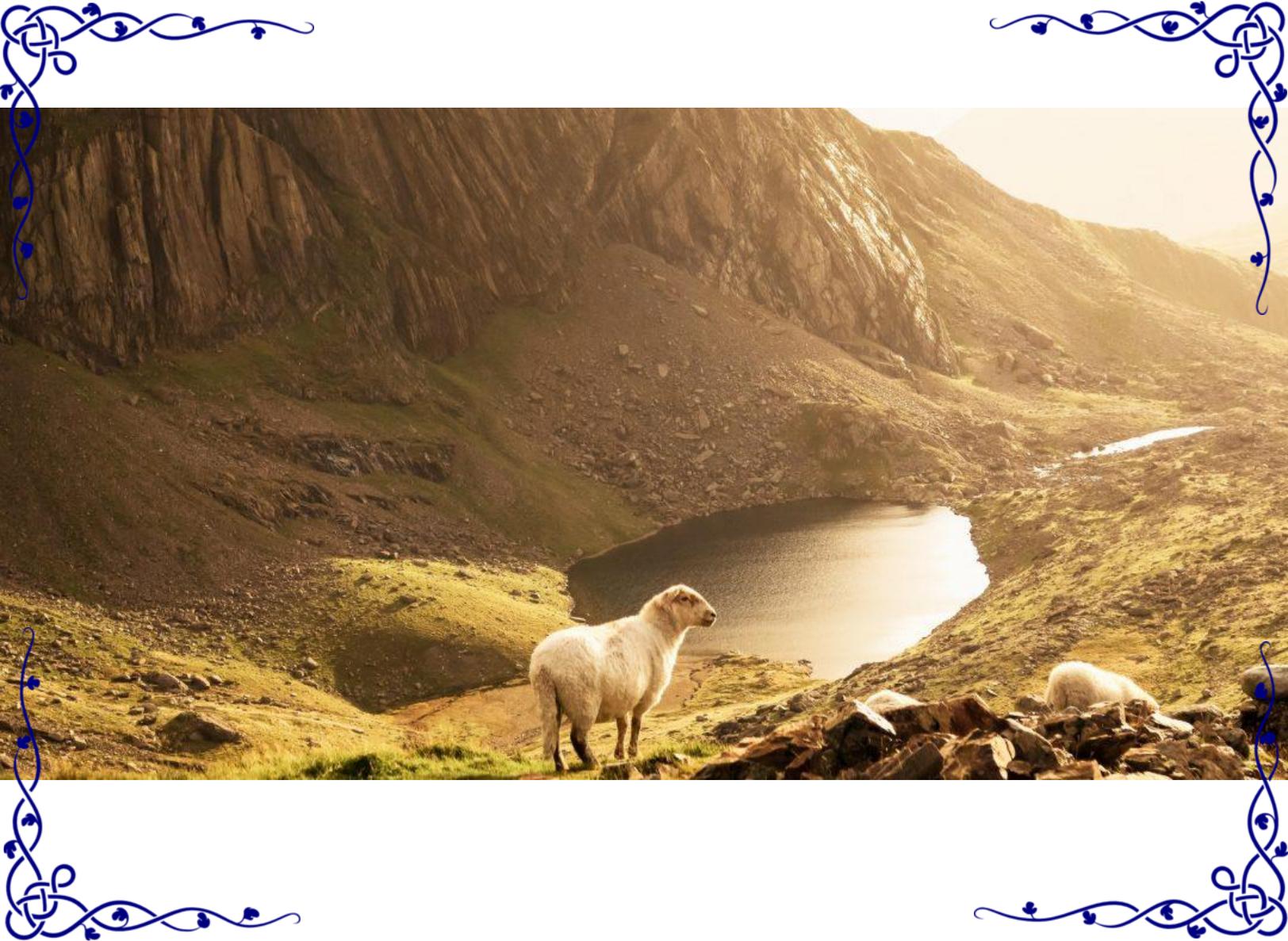


Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Ninth Sunday of Pentecost

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

[YOUTUBE LIVE-STREAM LINK \(Click here\)](#)



Church of the Covenant
Ninth Sunday of Pentecost
July 18, 2021 10:30 am

Special Note: The first half of this service will be live-streamed to YouTube, so please go to [youtube.com/channel/UCUgqWdRTyqb0yeOpR3x6UYA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgqWdRTyqb0yeOpR3x6UYA)

After the Prayer of Dedication, you will be directed to stop following the live-stream, and switch over to Zoom, as we will finish out the service in our usual “Zoom-style” – the link is the same as every Sunday:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTltpTTUvRGNZUT09>

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### Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!  
Many: **And also with you!**

**Prelude** *Sheep May Safely Graze* J. S. Bach

### Call to Worship

One: We call upon the Name of the One who has caused their face to shine upon us and been gracious to us.

**Many: Surely your goodness and mercy has followed us.**

One: We invoke the Name of the One who is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above that which we can ask or think.

**Many: Surely your goodness and mercy has followed us.**

One: We beseech the name of the one who is able to keep us from falling.

**Many: Surely your goodness and mercy has followed us.**

One: We praise the name of the one who is our Light and our Salvation; of this we are confident: we will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

**Many: Surely God’s goodness and mercy has followed us!**

### Kindling the Christ Light

- 1) Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are
  
- 2) We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,  
Be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,  
Seek us when we go astray:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Hear, O hear us when we pray;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Hear, O hear us when we pray.
  
- 3) Thou hast promised to receive us,  
Poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Early let us turn to Thee;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Early let us turn to Thee.
  
- 4) Early let us seek Thy favor,  
Early let us do Thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
With Thy love our bosoms fill:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

## Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

**Many:** Gracious God, who is our shepherd, we are consumed with wanting more than what we need; other pastures seem greener; we stubbornly chase after waters aren't always still. Our souls still thirst. Though we may complain unnecessarily along the path, we long to be led by you. And yet, O God, we do sometimes fear. May we feel your presence, your comfort and your forgiveness anew. Forgive us as we seek your overflowing mercy. Forgive us, God, and lead us in paths of righteousness for your namesake.

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

## Listening to God in Silent Prayer

### Assurance of God's Grace

**One:** God knows our shortcomings and our failings, yet we are reminded that God's grace is sufficient and covers all.

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

## Sung Response

*Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises*

## Reading from the Gospel Lesson: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56, NIV

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

## Reading from Psalm 23, NKJV

The Lord *is* my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
She makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
They lead me beside the still waters.  
He restores my soul;  
God leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For Their name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You *are* with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever.

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

### Sung Response

*Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises*

### Sermon

“At the End of the Day...”

### Sermon Hymn NCH 506

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

1) What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

2) Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!

3) Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

### **Call to Offering**

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

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

### **Offertory**

Finale from *Firebird* (excerpt)

### **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**

***PLEASE STOP FOLLOWING LIVESTREAM, AND JOIN US [ON ZOOM](#)***

### **Celebrations and Concerns**

One: God, in your grace,  
Many: **Receive our prayer.**

## Pastoral Prayer

### Celebration of Holy Communion

*In preparation for this sacrament, please gather a bread product (bread, tortilla, gluten-free cracker, etc.), and a liquid (grape juice, wine, water, etc.) to take in when invited.*

## Invitation

### 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 God who fills us with hope.**

One: Let us give thanks to God our light.

Many: **It is right for us to offer our thanks and praise to the One who loves us.**

One: It is right for us to thank and praise you God...

...And so, with your people here on earth, with all the ancestors, 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

*Rebekah Long*

**Our Mother, Father and Parent who dwells in the heavens and on the earth, You are Holy.**

**May heaven be a greater present reality here on earth,**

**And may we choose to join you in making that happen.**

**Provide us today with the things that you think we need,**

**And may we not take for granted that which you have already provided for us.**

**Forgive us for when we don't live as you intend,**

**And may we be ready to forgive others when they don't live as we intend.**

Guide us in your wisdom away from the things that would distort us,  
And restore the parts in us that are already distorted.  
You are goodness, beauty and truth,  
May your love rule always.  
Amen.

## Breaking of the Bread & Sharing of the Bread and Cup

### Post Communion 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.**

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*Church of the Covenant is focused on following Jesus in our world through accompaniment,  
compassion, peace, joy and creative beauty.*

*We are passionate about hospitality, committed to justice, and wild about faith.*

*We embrace an embodied spirituality that is not afraid of questions.*

*We advocate for a just climate for our earth, liberation in our world, and equality in our  
neighborhoods.*

*We are a community where ALL are welcome and celebrated as beautiful reflections of God –all  
genders, all faiths, all orientations, all backgrounds, all abilities, all ages, all struggles, and all hopes.*

*Come journey with us!*

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## Participating in Today's Worship

**Preacher** – Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Liturgists** – Rev. Rob Mark and Karen Henry

**Lector** – Nancy Hollomon

**Cantors** – Betsy and Tim Groves

**WELCOME & PEACE BE WITH YOU IN THESE DAYS!** We are delighted to welcome you to our community of faith here at Church of the Covenant! Thank you for joining us in worship. While we lament that we can't greet you in person we are so glad you are with us today. We still feel deeply connected in the Spirit's blessing. As we all continue to do our part to love our neighbor as ourselves to help counter 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.

**NEW: 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.

- July 18, Livestream from Sanctuary, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
- July 25, Rev. Joshua preaching
- August 1, Reflection on the Word, Communion
- August 8, Rev. Kate preaching
- August 15, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
- August 22, Rev. Rob preaching

**Zoom link for each Sunday:** <https://zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTllpTTEvRGNZUT09>

**NEW: SUMMER EVENING PRAYERS ON ZOOM:** This summer, we will gather on Zoom from 6-6:30pm for a simple prayer time together on Wednesday July 28 and August 18. Zoom link for each Wednesday ([click here](#)).

**NEW: SUMMER EVENING PRAYERS IN PERSON:** Join us on Wednesday 8/11 from 6-7pm for a safe, socially distanced outdoor in-person prayer in Brookline at Nancy Hollomon's beautiful garden. On August 24, we will gather in Cambridge for an in-person prayer and fellowship from 6-7pm.

**EMERGING & GETTING TOGETHER:** These past 15 months have been long and hard, and it has been extra hard being separated from in-person gatherings. This summer, we'd like to begin re-emerging well and safely together by providing some chances to gather together in-person, even before we can do so safely together in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. Here are the opportunities that are emerging:

- **Porches for 8:** Just as in the past we called these “Suppers for 8”, this summer we are offering the chance to gather together with a small group of fellow COTCers at someone’s back yard or porch so share a simple meal. This will be for those who have been fully vaccinated and who feel comfortable (and obviously without any covid-like symptoms). If you’d like your name to be added to the list of those who will be invited to these gatherings (dates and locations yet TBD), please email [Trudi Veldman](#).
- **Outdoor Evening Prayers:** Our next outdoor Evening Prayer will be in Brookline on Weds. Aug. 11, 6-7pm (see above). Other evening prayers on Wednesday can easily be hosted at your place! If you have room for up to 10 people to sit in a circle outside, please let Rob know and we’ll find a date.
- **NEW: Climate Jubilee Jaunts:** Once a month, our Climate Jubilee Team will be hosting some outdoor walks/ hikes in and around Boston. Here are the next two:
  - On Saturday, July 17, at 1 PM Evelyn Kimber will meet up at [The Peace Abbey](#) Interfaith Center in [Sherborn MA](#) with anyone interested in viewing the Gandhi Statue, [Peace Memorial Park](#), Global Pandemic Stone (over which Rev Rob did a blessing ceremony on April 2 as the 2.5 ton stone was pulled past Covenant) and the life-size statue of Emily the Cow. [Sign up here](#). Four signups needed for event to occur. [Contact Evelyn](#) with questions.
  - On Sunday, July 25, starting at 1 PM, Nancy Stockford and Mark Huston will lead a walk in the [Arnold Arboretum](#) in Jamaica Plain, part of Boston's Emerald Necklace. [Sign up here](#), and Nancy will send you directions, meetup location, and parking and public transportation information. [Contact Nancy](#) with questions.

**NEW: CLIMATE JUBILEE TEAM “LINK OF THE MONTH”!:** View Interfaith Power & Light’s summer film, **Other Side of the Hill** starting July 10! [Register here to view it at home or screen it for your congregation and buy the kit.](#) OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL explores the impacts of a changing climate as seen through the eyes of local leaders on the ground. The film amplifies the voices of rural communities often left unheard, and shines a light on stories of progress and hope. In a time of unprecedented cultural divide between rural and urban communities, this film finds common ground in an urgency to address a changing landscape. The film will be available for free online viewing July 10 - 25.

## **CYCE FAMILIES & 20s30s40s GATHERING, JULY 18**

Today, Sunday, July 18 at 5:00 pm, there will be a joint gathering of 20s30s40s folks and CYCE families in the Arnold Arboretum. Rev. Joshua and Rev. Kate are eager for a chance to get to know folks better after so many months mostly online. Bring your kids, bring your (child- and other-pet-friendly!) dogs, bring a blanket or chairs. More details to come. Questions? Email [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org) or [joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org).

**BIBLE STUDY - FRIDAYS 11AM:** Our virtual Bible Study is meeting at 11:00 am on Fridays, studying the Book of Acts. Questions? Please contact Nancy Ammerman at [ntammerman@gmail.com](mailto: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

**20s-30s-40s GROUP AT COVENANT:** We have a vital group for young adults, young professionals and students – and we’d love you to join us! We currently hold brunches (virtual for the time-being) on the third Sunday of each month. If you would like to be added to our email list, or connect one-to-one, please contact Rev. Joshua at [joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org)

**CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** Our Godly Play and Youth Class will not be meeting for the summer. If you would like to learn more about or connect with our ministries with children and youth, email Rev. Kate at [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org).

**SUMMER SABBATH:** Rev. Rob’s annual Summer Sabbath (2 weeks unpaid furlough, 2 weeks vacation) will be July 20-August 17. Please contact Rev. Joshua or chair of Deacons, Anita Gram, with pastoral needs during this time.

**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 – and recently opened up to kids 12-15. Check here: [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov). 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. 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> and <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates>

**WHAT CAN I DO ONCE VACCINATED?** As we give thanks that increasing numbers of people are getting vaccinated, many are asking this question, here are a few guidelines:

[CDC Guidelines](#)

[Interactive Risk Assessment Tool](#)

**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](http://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*

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*