

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Tenth Sunday of Pentecost

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

[ZOOM LINK \(click here\)](#)



Church of the Covenant
Tenth Sunday of Pentecost

July 25, 2021 10:30 am

[Zoom Link](#)

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Prelude

All Glory be to God on High

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

One: Come, rest your spirits in the Lord.

Many: **We come, hungering and thirsting for God's word.**

One: This is a place of peace and hope, where all may be fed and healed.

Many: **Bring us to the time of healing.**

One: Come, place your trust in God who is always near you.

Many: **Open our hearts, Lord, to hear your word and feel your presence.**

One: Today is a day especially created for you to find peace and hope.

Many: **Amid our hectic lives, we surely need such a time as this.**

One: Come, rest in the Lord.

Many: **Our souls long for God's refreshing love.**

One: Let the demands of your week melt away in God's presence.

Many: **Refresh and restore us, O Lord, we pray.**

Kindling the Christ Light

Opening Hymn:

O Day of Rest and Gladness

Verse 1

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light.

O balm for care and sadness, most beautifully bright.

On you, the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,

Sing "holy, holy, holy" to the great God triune.

Verse 2

On you, at earth's creation the light first had its birth.
On you, for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;
On you, our Lord victorious sent Spirit forth from heaven.
And thus on you, most glorious, a triple light was given.

Verse 3

On you, God's people, meeting, the Holy Scripture hear,
Christ's living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.
New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,
We reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: You know how we are, Lord. We say that we will take time to refresh our spirits and our souls and then we quickly crowd our lives with activities to the point of exhaustion. We turn to you for nourishment, asking you to give us something to sustain us through times of joy and sadness. We even are willing to tell you what we have, but when we look closely, we discover that we bring so little to the table. Take what we have, our gifts and our needs; heal and forgive us when we operate out of alignment with You. Remind us that you have given to us all that we need to serve you in this world. The world abounds with your miracles of love and hope. Open our eyes to see them and our hearts to know that these are from you and not of our own making. Heal and restore us to your everlasting love.

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

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Cease your fearful fretting! God's love is lavished upon you. It is always there for you, offering healing and hope. Rest in God's love.

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

Reading from 2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat."

But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, "They shall eat and have some left."

He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

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

Sermon

“We’re Gonna Have a Funky Good Time”

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

The Cuckoo and the Nightingale

G. F. Handel

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

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.**

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!

Participating in Today's Worship

Preacher – Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Liturgist – Betty Southwick

Lector – David McKinney

Cantors – Rev. Tom Reid

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.

CLIMATE JUBILEE JAUNT TODAY, 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.

CYCE FAMILIES & 20s30s40s GATHERING TODAY, JULY 25: This evening 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, and bring plenty of water and bug spray. Meet at the Walter St. gate. Street parking is available along Walter St. if the spots around the perimeter of the park are full. Questions? Email kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org or joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org.

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.

- 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](#)

SUMMER EVENING PRAYERS THIS WEEK 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](#)).

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.

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

STAFF VACATION: Rev. Kate is out of the office from July 28-August 4. Please submit any announcements for *This Week at Covenant* no later than noon on Tuesday, July 27.

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.](#) 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.

NEW: COTC CHILDCARE PROVIDER SEARCH:

We have begun our search for our next part-time CYCE Child Care Worker. Know anyone who might be interested? Pass along [this link](#) with information and job description. For more info, contact Rev. Kate.

EMERGING & GETTING TOGETHER: These past 16 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.

- **Climate Jubilee Jaunts:** Once a month, our Climate Jubilee Team will be hosting some outdoor walks/ hikes in and around Boston. Our next jaunt is today (see above); stay tuned for news about future jaunts.

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. 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

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.

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

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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*