

Church of the Covenant & Dulce Nombre de Jesus



Breathe: Fourth Sunday in Lent Celebration of the Word

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

ZOOM LINK (click here)



Church of the Covenant
Breathe: Fourth Sunday in Lent
Celebration of the Word March 14, 2021 10:30 am
Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlplTTEvRGZUT09>

Welcome & Announcements

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

Prelude: *The Earth Belongs to God Alone* Glory to God Hymnal # 715
Text by Adam M.L. Tice, Music by William P. Rowan

Calling Ourselves into Worship with Attending to the Breath

Chiming of the Prayer Bowl

Kindling the Christ Light

Hymn (PH, 316):

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: Creator, Spirit God, source of all that is, in the beginning as you blew over the waters, you breathed into us life. In this moment, we give you thanks for the sacred gift of every breath that we are given – every inhale – every exhale. Yet we lament that at times in the worries and rush of living, we forget the truth of this wild gift. We lament our complicity in unjust systems that keep some from breathing. We lament the ways we have neglected the earth's climate and polluted the air, making some inhales toxic. On this Lenten journey, we confess all this sin, and pray for wholeness. You desire liberation for all. In your grace, may we learn to breathe more deeply together, in peace, justice, and love.

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

Listening to God in Silent Prayer *(marked by chiming of prayer bowl)*

Assurance of God's Grace

(from the Nicaraguan Misa Campesina)

One: You are the God of the poor, the human and simple. You struggle in the countryside and town. You line up in the work camps to get your daily wage. That is why we can talk with You. You are the worker God, the worker Christ and we celebrate together:

Many: In Jesus Christ we are set free and made whole.

Introduction to Reflection on the Word

Scripture Reading Gospel of Luke: 10:25-37

Behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

He said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Sharing of Words (on Zoom Chat)

Second Reading of Scripture

Reflections on the Word from the Community of Dulce Nombre de Jesus

Reflections on the Word from Nica Companions

Moment for Generosity: *Coins*

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory *Misión del Cristiano(Un Solo Rebaño)*. Recording from E.C. Music Project

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:

We Are Marching in the Light of God

We are marching in the Light of God (x 4)
We are marching, we are marching, oh-oh,
We are marching in the light of God (x2)

Marchamos en la luz de Dios (x4)
Marchamos, marchamos, oh-oh,
Marchamos en la luz de Dios (2x)

We are breathing in the light of God (x 4)
We are breathing, we are breathing, oh-oh,
We are breathing in the light of God (x2)

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

Worship Leaders – Community Members from Dulce Nombre de Jesus, Eduardo Valdez, Debbie Howland, Karen Henry, Diane Lauber, Tim Groves, Kathy Bull, Mocky Day, Rev. Rob Mark

Attending to the Breath Guide – Diane Lauber Doherty

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Voice & Guitar – Rev. Tom Reid and David McKinney

Cantor – Tim Groves **Djembe** – Rob Mark

Technical Assistance & Translations – Amanda Jones-Dominguez and Memo Dominguez Castillo of Entre Culturas

Moment for Generosity – Holly Humphreys

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.

MOMENT FOR GENEROSITY: This Lenten season we are focusing on breath and breathing. *Breathe in*, *breathe out*. Breathing is relational, there is a give and there is a take. During Lent as part of the call to offering your Generosity Generators are inviting you to consider this passage from Ephesians 6:15 “and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.” Think about how your shoes and socks protect your feet as you move forward toward your Lenten aspirations. The Generosity Generators ask you to consider giving socks for under-housed people in our neighborhoods. Women's Lunch Place <https://womenslunchplace.org/donate> operating out of our church basement has priority items on their wish list through Amazon. You can order a pack of 5 pairs of socks for \$12 to be sent directly to WLP. If you prefer not to use Amazon you can be creative about how to give new socks at a place near you.

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 from now 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.

LENTEN EVENING PRAYERS: Join us each Wednesday during the Lenten season from 6-6:30pm for our evening prayer service. And we are looking for volunteers to help lead these services. We have a simple powerpoint with the basic service elements that you would just customize with the given text for each week. Or you are welcome to let your imagination run wild. Just sign up in this [Google Doc](#) and let us know if you have any questions over *email*. Zoom link for each Wednesday:

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

LENT DEVOTIONALS: Lent began Feb. 17 with our Ash Wednesday service. 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*
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GBIO REFOUNDING 3/16: The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization is GROWING! GBIO will celebrate the addition of 15 new, very diverse, member congregations and organizations, to build our power to create change. All are invited to GBIO's Re-Founding Assembly on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 7 to 9 PM, on Zoom. Please mark your calendar and plan to be there. Register at bit.ly/gbiorefounding. For more information please contact any of Covenant's GBIO team members: Kathryn Barry, Anne Crane, Tim Groves, Holly Humphreys, Rich Jackson, Faith Perry, Tom Reid, Elaine Sullivan.

COVENANT BOOK GROUP MEETS 3/21 TO DISCUSS *CASTE* BY ISABEL WILKERSON (second half of book): The next meeting of Covenant's book group will be Sunday, March 21, at 5 PM. We will meet by Zoom--see link below--to discuss the second 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/91082840018>

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 and frustrating. As we give thanks for the miraculous reality of these vaccines, we lament the inequal access still in our state, and the confusing roll out. **There is a new site being launched by the Commonwealth where you can register to be alerted when you are eligible and when there is availability.** 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>

CLIMATE JUBILEE, BREATHING WITH TREES: Following a well attended adult education session last week, our Jubilee-ers call your attention to [this link](#).

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

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 SUNDAY BRUNCH: Starting on March 21 at 12:30pm, the 20s30s40s group will be hosting a Sunday brunch on Zoom. This will be a time to share a meal and fellowship with each other. Meal reimbursements are available. Please be on the lookout for the Zoom link via email. For more information, 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

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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*

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*