

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Breathe: Palm Sunday

All-Ages Worship

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
ZOOM LINK (click here)



Church of the Covenant

Breathe: Palm Sunday

All Ages Worship March 28, 2021 10:30 am

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlIpTTEvRGNZUT09>

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God!

Many: **Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!**

One: Let all the people say,

Many: **God's love lasts forever!**

One: Let all God's people say,

Many: **God's love lasts forever!**

One: Open the gates! Open the gates!

Many: **Open the gates!**

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God!

Many: **Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Kindling the Christ Light

Opening Hymn (PH, 88):

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

All glory, laud, and honor, to Thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1. Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One. *Refrain*
2. The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems before Thee we present. *Refrain*
3. To Thee, before Thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*
4. Thou didst accept their praises; Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King! *Refrain*

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace:

Many: Eternal God, we come to greet you like the crowds long ago, with palms and branches, with shouts of "Hosanna!" and "Save us!" on our lips. Our hearts break from the pain in our world and in our lives. So many are crying out for help and hope, but the shouts of tyrants and bigots sound mightier. As we prepare to walk through this Holy Week, past the Table, past the Garden, to the Cross, the hope and triumph of the Empty Tomb seems impossibly far away. Forgive our unbelief. Fill our lungs with deep breaths and our hearts with fresh hopes. Show us, as you showed the crowds long ago, the humble power of a Savior on a donkey. Show us in our worship that the beloved community is close at hand, and transform us to share glimpses of that kingdom with the world.

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

One: The shouts on our lips are signs that God hears us. The branches we wave are signs of Christ's victory over the powers of evil and death. God's steadfast loving-kindness endures forever. Hear the Good News, friends:

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

Scripture Readings

Hebrew Bible Reading: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Give thanks to God, who is good; God's love lasts forever.

Let Israel now declare, "God's love lasts forever."

Let the house of Aaron declare, "God's love lasts forever."

Let those who fear God declare, "God's love lasts forever."

Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

"This is the gate of God; here the righteous may enter."

I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is God's doing; it is marvelous in our sight.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hosanna! O God, save us!

We pray to you, God, prosper our days!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;

we bless you from the house of God.

The Lord is God and has given us light.

Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to God, who is good;

God's love lasts forever.

Gospel Reading: Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Cloaks and Branches

Richard Cootes

Reflection & Breakout Rooms

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

This Little Light of Mine

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

Attending to the Breath

Lauren Star

Chiming of the Prayer Bowl

Closing Hymn (PH, 363):

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1. I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

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 – COTC Godly Play and Youth Class

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Attending to the Breath Guide – Lauren Star

Liturgist – Rev. Kate Carlisle

Lectors – COTC Youth Class

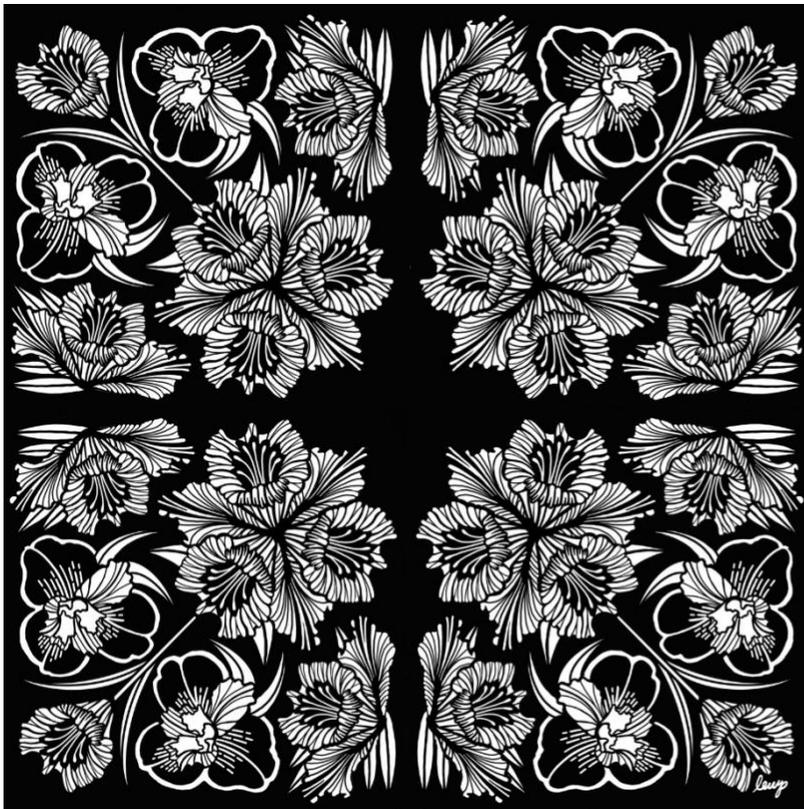
Guitar – Joseph Jewett

Cantors – Rev. Tom Reid and Tim 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.

ATTENDING TO THE BREATH – INTRODUCTION TO OUR BREATHING GUIDE: Lauren Star has been teaching hatha yoga for 18 years, and at the core of hatha yoga is conscious breathing exercises. She was originally trained in the Sivananda Lineage at Ananda Kutir Ashram in CapeTown, South Africa. More recently she completed her Master's Degree in Yoga Studies at Loyola Marymount University (2020), and is currently working on a post-graduate certificate in Yoga Therapy. She has taught yoga and conscious breathing to people of all ages, in a variety of settings, including Women's Lunch Place! Conscious breathing is a practice with physiological benefits, including stress management and pain reduction. Many believe it has spiritual benefits as well, and it has been used by monks and nuns in many traditions as a way of turning within and connecting with God. During the Lenten services this year, Lauren Star will lead us in some simple 'conscious breathing' practices. Some of these will include gentle movement. We look forward to hearing your experiences of 'attending to the breath' and where that leads you physically, mentally, and spiritually.

GOOD FRIDAY GLOBAL PANDEMICS STONEWALK: On Good Friday, at some point between 3-5pm, the Peace Abbey's Global Pandemics Stonewalk will arrive at the steps of Church of the Covenant for a few moments of prayer and solidarity. Rob will be on hand to welcome it on behalf of our wider community. If you have any specific prayers, or names of people who have been affected, died, or impacted by the pandemics we have collectively faced this past year, please email Rob (rob.mark@cotcbos.org) a name or prayer you'd like him to read during this moment of public lament. For more info on this stonewalk that begins at the State House, see: <https://www.peaceabbey.org/stonewalk-intl-requiem-memorial-walk/> or <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceAbbeyFoundation>



Church of the Covenant
HOLY WEEK 2021:
Breathe

PALM SUNDAY 10:30am
All-ages service of Palms to Passion

MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30pm
Ecumenical service

GOOD FRIDAY 7:00pm
Tenebrae Service with Seven Last Words

EASTER SUNDAY 10:30am
Festive service with choir, vocal soloists, and Redline Brass; Communion; and Rev. Rob Mark preaching

All services on Zoom
More info: 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.

○ **HOLY WEEK:**

- Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:30pm Ecumenical Service with common cathedral, Emmanuel Episcopal Church and Old West UMC Church ([click here for Zoom link](#)). More info: fb.me/e/2oKKqsyZZ
- Good Friday, April 2, 7:00pm Tenebrae Service in solidarity with Bedford (NH), Clinton, Burlington and Eliot (Lowell) Presbyterian Churches ([Click here for Zoom link](#))
- Holy Saturday, April 3, Noon-1pm Sacred Vigil on your own (devotional ideas to be emailed out) – *Breathe*
- Easter Sunday, April 4, 10:30am Rev. Rob preaching, Communion, Redline Brass

○ April 11, Guest Preacher, Rev. Brian Ellison from Covenant Network

Here are the Zoom details for Sundays:

join by computer/ tablet/ smartphone:

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

CLIMATE JUBILEE, BREATHING WITH TREES: Following a well attended adult education session recently, 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.

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](#)*

CREW INTERFAITH CLIMATE SUMMIT: Healing, Helping and Building Resilience: Sunday, April 11, 2pm: [Click here to register.](#)

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 unequal access still in our state, and the confusing roll out. **There is a new Mass.gov site by the Commonwealth where you can pre-register to be alerted when you are eligible and when there is availability:** <https://vaccinesignup.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 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>

FACING OUR RACISM WORKSHOP NEW DATE: Our friends at Co-operative Metropolitan Ministry are organizing an excellent few hours long workshop, join Rev. Rob, \$45 (scholarships available – please ask Rob), “Facing Our Racism: Becoming Conscious Partners” on Sunday, May 16, noon-4:30pm – [click here to register](#).

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*