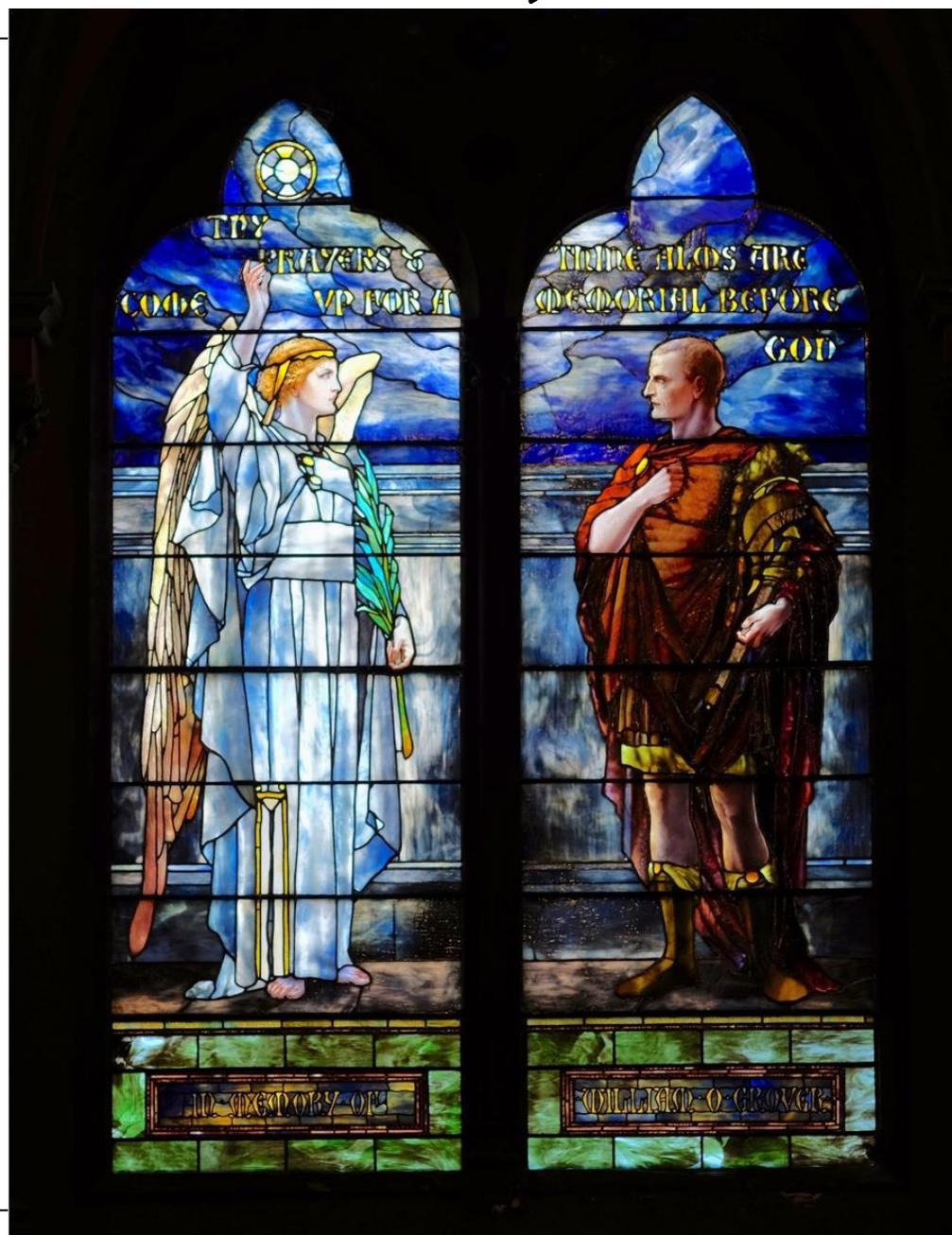


Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rededication of

The Angel and Cornelius Window

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

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



Church of the Covenant
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rededication of
The Angel and Cornelius Window
November 14, 2021 10:30 am [Zoom Link](#)

Welcome and thank you for worshipping together for this “hybrid” service where some will be in the sanctuary of their homes, and some in the sanctuary at 67 Newbury Street. For those joining online, we will plan to begin on Zoom, and clear directions will follow. Please note this service is recorded and later posted on our church website.

10:15am Hymn Rehearsal for World Premiere of “*In Prayer I Find Solace*”

Welcome & Announcements

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

Prelude *What A Covenant* arr. Bill Wolaver

*Call To Worship

One: Stop.
Many: **Stop worrying.**
One: Stop.
Many: **Stop judging.**
One: Start.
Many: **Start wondering.**
One: Start.
Many: **Start loving.**
One: Life is short, and we have little time to gladden the hearts of those who journey the way with us.
Many: **So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind. For God who travels with us, is within us. Let us worship.**

Kindling the Christ Light

***Opening Hymn:** PH (blue) 313 *Come Down, O Love Divine*
Come down, O Love Divine, seek out this soul of mine
And visit it with Your own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Your glorious light, shine ever on my sight;
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
Shall far out pass the power of human telling;
For none can guess God's grace, till Love create a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Iona Community

One: Because you made the world, and intended it to be a good place, and called its creatures your children; because, when things seemed at their worst, you came in Christ to bring out the best in us; so, gracious God, we gladly say:

Many: Goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, truth is stronger than lies.

One: Because confusion can reign inside us, despite our faith; because anger, tension, bitterness and envy distort our vision; because our minds sometimes worry small things out of all proportion; because we do not always get it right, we want to believe:

Many: Goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, truth is stronger than lies.

One: Because you have promised to hear us, and are able to change us, and are willing to make our hearts your home, we ask you to confront, control, forgive and encourage us. Then let us cherish in our hearts that which we proclaim with our lips:

Many: Goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, truth is stronger than lies.

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

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: People of God – rise up. Into grace – rise up. Into forgiveness – rise up. Into the sweet, boundless and never-ending, fierce love of God – let us rise up, and celebrate together:

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

Sung Response

Over My Head

The image shows a musical score for a song titled "Over My Head". It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score is divided into three systems. The first system is labeled "Refrain" and contains the lyrics: "O-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my". The second system continues the lyrics: "head, I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my head, I hear". The third system is labeled "Fine" and contains the lyrics: "mu-sic in the air; there must be a God some - where." The music is written for a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef).

Sacred Words for our World: Reading from the New Testament Acts 10

In Caesarea there someone named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout person who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius.' He stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Holy One?' The angel answered, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now send people to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.'

About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He

saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But Peter said, 'By no means, Holy One; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.' The voice said to him again, a second time, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the people sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Look, three people are searching for you. Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them.' So Peter went down to the people and said, 'I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?' They answered, 'Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing one, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.' So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging.

Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshipped him. But Peter made him get up, saying, 'Stand up; I am only a mortal.' And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled; and he said to them, 'You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?'

Cornelius replied, 'Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly someone in dazzling clothes stood before me. They said, "Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea." Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Holy One has commanded you to say.'

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—who is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that Jesus did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

Sung Response

Over My Head

Sermon

Ascending as a Memorial

Rededication of The Angel and Cornelius Window

One: With Cornelius,
Many: **We seek solidarity over empire, compassion over competition, and possibility over pessimism.**

One: With the Angels,
Many: We look beyond what terrifies, and listen for Divine directives.

One: With undepicted Peter,
Many: We strive beyond our limited vision to live into God's expansive dream for all.

One: With William Grover,
Many: We become the creative inventors and generous givers that see "another world is possible."

One: With artists Frederick Wilson and Louis Comfort Tiffany,
Many: We all become essential layers of rainbow hues that together, let the light in.

One: And with all who work to restore,
Many: We choose beauty, we choose joy, we choose love.

Introduction to Hymn

Christine James

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory Hymn

In Prayer I Find Solace

In Prayer I Find Solace

Composed for the rededication of the
Cornelius Window
Church of the Covenant
Boston - November 2021

Tune: The Rowan Tree
(traditional Scottish)
arr. Thomas Handel

Text: Christine James



Cornelius: In prayer I find so-lace by alms I seek grace. Can
Peter: I'm of - ten be - fud-dled by vis - ions and dreams. God's
Cornelius and Peter: What's brought us to - geth - er, two men who were foes? Can

6



one who serves em - pire, his sin be e - rased? Can
will is un - cer - tain, and not what it seems. To
God's mer - cy free us from hate's un - der - tow? If

10



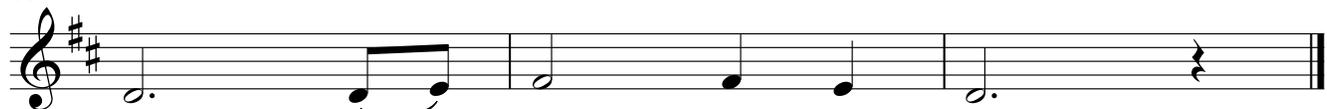
Ro - man be bap - tized, his soul then set free? What -
end - what since Mo - ses my peop - ple have done, How
we, by the Spir - it, re - mem - ber Christ's ways, Then

14



e're says the an - gel is as it will
through such trans - gres - sion can new life be
peace, love and jus - tice be ours all our

17



be. Is as it will be.
won? Can new life be won?
days. Peace for all our days.

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

Farwell Blessing and Commissioning for Elaine Sullivan & Rich Jackson

Celebrations and Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

* Closing Hymn

The Spirit Sends us Forth to Serve



1. The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we
2. We go to com - fort those who mourn and
3. We go to be the hands of Christ, to
4. Then let us go to serve in peace, the



go in Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
set the bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
scat - ter joy like seed and, all our days, to
gos - pel to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

WORDS: Delores Dufner, OSB

MUSIC: USA folk melody

LAND OF REST

CM

Words © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. by OCP Publications

*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.**

Participating in Today's Worship

Preacher – Rev. Rob Mark

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Liturgist – Rev. Joshua Lazard

Lectors – Charlene James and Betsy Groves

Cantors – Members of the Covenant Choir

Violin – Anita Gram

Building Committee Chair – Lucy Williams

Digital Minister – Diane Lauber

Historic Preservationists – Roberto Rosa and Domenico Iriti of Serpentino Stained Glass, Inc. and Candelaria Silva-Collins (chair of The Henderson Designators).

Bulletin Cover: The Angel & Cornelius Window, Church of the Covenant

A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS: Covenant expresses gratitude to the Henderson Foundation for its ongoing support of the preservation of the exterior and interior of our building. We are honored to have Candelaria Silva-Collins, the Chair of the Henderson Designators in our service today. The Henderson Foundation gave us one of our first grants as part of the Committee to Renew the Covenant for \$65,000 in 1989 to paint the sanctuary in its original Tiffany colors. Most recently, they provided us with the seed grant of \$40,000 that allowed us to leverage other grants in order to restore the Angel and Cornelius Window that we are rededicating today.

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. If you have any questions about who we are as a community of faith, please reach out to an usher or pastor in person, or Zoom chat with a member of staff online. Be most welcome!

COTC BOOK GROUP TONIGHT: The next COTC book group meeting via Zoom will be tonight, November 14 at 5:00 pm. We will be discussing *Grounded: Finding God in the Word* by Diana Butler Bass. Please contact Nancy Stockford with any questions. [Zoom link here.](#)

UPCOMING WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS: Please join us each Sunday at 10:30am as we come together in community to pray, sing, share celebrations and concerns, and hear God's still-speaking Word proclaimed. [Zoom Link for each Sunday.](#)

- November 14, Rededication of Cornelius Window, Rev. Rob preaching
- November 21, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion, Short & Sweet Season for Generosity Begins (ON ZOOM)
- November 28, ADVENT 1, Rev. Rob preaching (ON ZOOM)
- December 5, ADVENT 2, Hybrid Service

STAFF SCHEDULES: Rev. Kate is on leave until the week of Nov 16. Rev. Rob is covering for them, please be in touch with him if you need anything. Rev. Rob will be on vacation Nov. 19-26. Rev. Joshua will be on vacation Nov. 24-30.

“NEW WINESKINS”: SHORT & SWEET SEASON FOR GENEROSITY Nov. 21-Dec. 5: Join us for a Short & Sweet Season of Generosity with letters around Thanksgiving and Dedication of Pledges 12/5.

POSTING FULL SERVICE RECORDINGS/ PRAYERS ONLINE: Due to techno-challenges we have decided we will be posting the entire service that is livestreamed online on our [Worship Recordings Page](#). Please let us know if you have any questions. Thanks.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS ON ZOOM: Join us this Wednesday 6:00-6:30pm for our weekly evening prayers, [on Zoom](#).

BIBLE STUDY - FRIDAYS 11AM ZOOM: You are invited to join the Friday morning Bible Study group on a new adventure as we dive into new ideas about the apostle Paul. [Zoom Link Here.](#)

join by phone: (646) 558 8656, Meeting ID: 104 478 666, Password: 581626

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING: Join us TODAY in person 10:30-11:30am for Families in the Park at Comm Ave Playground! If you would like to learn more about or connect with our vital ministries with children and youth, [email Rev. Kate](#).

20s-30s-40s GROUP AT COVENANT BRUNCHES: Join us after worship November 21 and December 19th, and email [Rev. Joshua](#) if you can come.

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*

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*