

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Indigenous People's Day Weekend

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

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



Church of the Covenant
Indigenous People's Day Weekend

October 10, 2021 10:30 am [Zoom Link](#)

Welcome and thank you for worshipping together! Unless sharing, please keep your mic on “mute”, but your voice and heart liberated to fully join in with the songs and liturgies as we worship our Creator while on Zoom.

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Prelude

Morning Has Broken

arr. Theresa Wilhelmi

Call to Worship

Iroquois Prayer in the spirit of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

One: We return thanks to our mother, the Earth, which sustains us.

Many: **We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which supply us with water.**

One: We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases.

Many: **We return thanks to the moon and stars, which have given to us their light when the sun was gone.**

One: We return thanks to the sun, that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye.

Many: **Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit, in Whom is embodied all goodness, and Who directs all things for the good of Her children.**

Kindling the Christ Light

***Opening Hymn:** PH (blue) 554

Let All Things Now Living

Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving

To God our Creator triumphantly raise;

Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us,

By guiding us on to the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us, Pure light goes before us,

A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:

Till shadows have vanished, All fearfulness banished,

As forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces. The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, The rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing Our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living Unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Land Acknowledgement

Many: Loving God, we open ourselves to truth. To any pain, hurt, or “other”-ing we are complicit in or unaware of – educate us. From any fear, burden or anxiety that binds – liberate us. From our ancestor’s haunted histories of broken treaties, forced assimilation, and genocides – exorcise us. And then fill us with fierce love so that we may have the courage to be fully who you created us to be – your beloved children.

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:

Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!

Sacred Words for our World

Reading from the Original Testament: Job 1:1, 2:1-10, 23:1-9, 16-17

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before GOD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before GOD. GOD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered GOD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." GOD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." Then Satan answered GOD, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." GOD said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of GOD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. Then his spouse said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish person would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Then Job answered: "Today also my complaint is bitter; God's hand is heavy despite my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find God, that I might come even to the holy dwelling! I would lay my case before God, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would learn what God would answer me,

and understand what God would say to me. Would the Holy One contend with me in the greatness of divine power? No; but God would give heed to me. There an upright person could reason with God, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge. “If I go forward, God is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive God; on the left God hides, and I cannot behold God; I turn to the right, but I cannot see God.

God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!

Sermon

Living Sorry

Hymn: PH 271

Wakantanka: Dakota Creation Hymn

Many and great, O God, are Thy things
Maker of earth and sky
Thy hands have set the heavens with stars
Thy fingers spread the mountains and plains
Lo at Thy word the waters were formed
Deep seas obey Thy voice.

Grant unto us, communion with Thee,
Thou star abiding One
Come unto us and dwell with us;
With Thee are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
Eternal life with Thee.

Words & Music: Joseph R. Renville (1779-1846); This song was written by Joseph R. Renville and first appeared in the “Dakota Odawan”, also known as “Dakota Dowanpi Kin” published in Boston in 1842). Of the hymns published in that book, this is the only one for which the original melody is known to have been a traditional Dakota tune. The tune is LACQUIPARLE, French for ‘lake that speaks.’ This was sung by thirty-eight Dakota as they were escorted to the gallows, at Mankato, Minnesota, on December 26, 1862, the largest federal mass execution in American history according to Rev. Sidney Bird, Dakota Presbyterian minister whose ancestor was acquitted of charges by Lincoln. “The Sioux Uprising” began August 17, 1862 after the Dakota had demanded annuities promised by treaty directly from their agent. Traders refused to provide any more supplies on credit and negotiations reached an impasse.

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

Autumn Leaves

adapted from Bill Evans

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

Blessing the Boston Marathon 2021

Song of Blessing:

Long may you run, long may you run, although these changes have come.
With your chrome heart shining, in the sun, long may you run.

~Song by Neil Young

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.**

Participating in Today's Worship

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Preacher – Rev. Rob Mark

Lector – Sherri Darnell Brien

Liturgist – Christine James

Digital Minister – Rev. Kate Carlisle

Cantor – Rev. Tom Reid

Cover Image – Saint Kateri: *The Lily of the Mohawks* by Molly Kiely

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!

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!

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.

- October 10, Rev. Rob preaching, Indigenous People's Day Weekend (Zoom only worship)
- October 17, Rev. Joshua preaching (Hybrid worship)
- October 24, Reflection on the Word, (Zoom only worship)
- October 31, Rev. Rob preaching, Celebration of Baptism

[Zoom link for each Sunday](#)

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

BIBLE STUDY - FRIDAYS 11AM ZOOM: Our 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

CLIMATE VIGIL ON OUR STEPS: Sunday, October 17, Noon-1pm.

Please join our Climate Jubilee Team and others from the Boston area as we host a vigil as part of Green Faith's "Faith 4 Climate Justice" nation wide effort. Bring along something to make "a sacred sound" (bell, prayer bowl, drum, shofar, etc.) and bring any signs to hold to show downtown Boston how we as people of faith are serious about climate justice for all. Options to vigil with us on Zoom will also be made available.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR PASTOR TED: Join us on Sunday, October 17 at 2pm in person or online as we hold a Celebration of Life Service for our friend and Barbara's beloved Rev. Ted Goodfleisch. RSVP for in person required, and will be sent to email listserv.

COTC BOOK GROUP NOVEMBER 14: The next COTC book group meeting via Zoom will be on 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 will be sent closer to the date.

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! 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 Also, see below:

- **Save-The-Date: The 20s30s40s Retreat** is scheduled for Saturday, October 16, 2021. There will be more details forthcoming. However, if you wish to reserve your spot, please [email Rev. Joshua](#) by September 30th.
- **20s30s40s Sunday Brunches have returned!** Following the worship service, the 20s30s40s group will resume having out once-a-month after-church shared meal on the following dates: October 17 (following vigil, before memorial); November 21 and December 19th. More details about in-person or virtual meetings will be forthcoming via the listserv. For further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out via email to [Rev. Joshua](#).

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING: CYCE is proceeding with as much caution as possible to keep our unvaccinated kids safe. We won't be having any indoor gatherings of kids under 12 for at least the next couple of months. Our focus for fall is to hold some gatherings, in-person and outdoors, where we can have some safe fun, fellowship, and even worship. Watch your email for more updates and details! If you would like to learn more about or connect with our vital ministries with children and youth, [email Rev. Kate](#).

EMERGING & GETTING TOGETHER: These past 18 months have been long and hard, and it has been extra hard being separated from in-person gatherings. This fall, we'd like to continue to provide chances to safely gather together. Here are the opportunities that are emerging:

- **Porches for 8:** While the weather remains good, we continue to offer 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). If you'd like your name to be added to the list of those who will be invited to these gatherings please email [Trudi Veldman](mailto:Trudi.Veldman).
- **Climate Jubilee Jaunts:** Our Climate Jubilee Team will be hosting one or two more outdoor walks/ hikes in and around Boston. Stay tuned for news about future jaunts.

CLIMATE JUBILEE TEAM "LINK OF THE MONTH"!: Consider joining Mothers Out Front as they host a Zoom conversation with scientist with a deep Christian faith, Katherine Hayhoe on Weds. Oct. 20, 7-8pm. [RSVP here](#). Our Jubilee Team will be hosting a book reading by Dr. Hayhoe during Advent.

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*