

# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



## World Communion Sunday

*Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ*

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



Church of the Covenant  
World Communion Sunday  
October 3, 2021 10:30 am [Zoom Link](#)

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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, we will plan to remain on Zoom for the entire service. Clear directions will be given throughout the service on how to fully participate.

## Welcome & Announcements

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

Prelude

*A la nanita nana*

Spanish Lullaby

## \*Call to Worship

One: O God, you sit atop each redwood tree in the Pacific,  
Many: **And you burst forth from every cherry blossom in Japan.**  
One: You ripen the mangoes that fill bellies.  
Many: **And you provide snow that caps mountains.**  
One: You flow down the Jordan River and the Amazon,  
Many: **And you swim in the Atlantic Ocean and Lake Malawi.**  
One: You were here before we were, and you will be here when we are no more.  
Many: **We bless you throughout the whole wide world, now and forever!**

## Kindling the Christ Light

\*Opening Hymn: NCH (black) 569

*Touch the Earth Lightly*

# Touch the Earth Lightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

Unison  
Brightly

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,  
 \* 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,  
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,  
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

\*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:  
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,  
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,  
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,  
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—  
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,  
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.  
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!  
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Shirley Erena Murray's notes on this hymn state that the title line is borrowed from an Australian Aboriginal saying. The "clouds of disaster" mentioned in stanza 2 refer to nuclear testing by France, which New Zealand has protested at the United Nations many times.

Tune: TENDERNESS 5.5.10.D.  
 Colin Gibson, 1992

## **Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace**

**Many:** God of Peace, we confess we are sometimes at war. At war within our hearts – restless over who we are and who we are not. And we confess our complicity in a world that so quickly places labels that divide us, limit us, and harm us. Forgive us, loving God. May all swords within us and around us be remade into plowshares so that every hunger is satiated, every self expression celebrated, and every refugee finds a home in this your world.

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

## **Listening to God in Silent Prayer**

### **Assurance of God's Grace**

**One:** While our failures and frailty are fresh, God's grace has been ours before time began. God plants the seed of faith deep within us, growing a harvest of grace and hope. Thanks be to God! Therefore, let us celebrate together:

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

## Sung Response

*Over My Head*

*Refrain*

O-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; there must be a God some - where.

*Fine*

## Sacred Words for our World

## Sung Response

*Over My Head*

**Moment for Mission:** Peace and Global Witness & Neighbors in Need Offering

## Call to Offering

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

*Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General or "Peacemaking Offering."*

## Offertory

*Thula Baba*

African Lullaby

## \*Doxology

Though what we have in truth is small.  
God's grace shall be enough for all.  
So as we bless and break this bread.  
Each heart be filled each mouth be fed.

## Prayer of Dedication

### Celebrations and Concerns

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

### Pastoral Prayer

#### Celebration of World Communion

### Invitation to the Table

#### \* Communion Hymn

*I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table*

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,  
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, some of these days.  
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,  
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, some of these days.

All God's children gonna eat together  
All God's children gonna eat together, some of these days.  
All God's children gonna eat together  
All God's children gonna eat together, some of these days.

*During this hymn, all are invited to come forward with your bulletin and personal possessions for the remainder of the service.*

#### \* The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!  
Many: **And also with you.**

One: In peace, let us lift up our hearts!  
Many: **We open our hearts to the Spirit who fills us with peace.**

One: Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

Many: **It is right for us to offer our thanks and praise to God.**

One: It is right for us to thank and praise you God...

...And so, with your people here on earth, with the great company of heaven, we glorify your name, praising you:

Many: **Holy, holy, holy One, God of wondrous works. All creation is full of your love and grace. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of  
peace. Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Holy are you, O God....

**\* The Lord's Prayer** *(from A New Zealand Prayer Book, said in unison)*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that  
is and that shall be, Parent of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of  
your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly  
will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and  
freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need  
for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive  
us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too  
great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For  
you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread & Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**\* Global Prayer Stations**

**Communion Meditation**

*Peace Piece*

Bill Evans

**Post Communion Prayer**

**\* Closing Hymn: NCH (black) 437**

*We Shall Not Give Up the Fight*

We shall not give up the fight,  
We have only started (x3)  
We shall not give up the fight,  
We have only started (x3)

Together we'll have victory,  
Hand holding hand (x3)  
Together we'll have victory,  
Hand holding hand (x3)

Never ever put to flight,  
We're bound to win (x3)  
Never ever put to flight,  
We're bound to win (x3)

## **\*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.**

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## **Participating in Today's Worship**

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Worship Leaders** – Rev. Rob Mark & Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

**Lectors** – Nancy Stockford and Mitzi Merriweather

**Moment for Mission** – Faith Perry

**Digital Minister** – Rev. Kate Carlisle

**Cantors** – Nancy Stockford, Kathryn Barry, Kay Carleton

*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!



**REGISTER FOR IN PERSON OPTION FOR WORSHIP!!** To register for today's worship service, please [click here](#). Each person who attends in person will be required to show a copy (photocopy or photo from your phone/ camera) of their vaccination card as per Council's decision. Masks will be required for the entire service. Singing hymns with masks on will be allowed. And those who do not come in person will be able to fully worship online via Zoom as per usual.

**SPECIAL OFFERING WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY:** Today, we will receive a special offering for our two denominations.

- The PCUSA offering is called the Peace and Global Witness offering. It supports the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program whose goal is building a culture of peace and nonviolence. A portion of this offering will go to our local Presbytery of Boston to support a Cameroonian peacemaker. A number of churches in the Presbytery have members from Cameroon, which is currently suffering violence from *both* armed separatists, and government security forces.
- The UCC offering is called the Neighbors in Need offering. One third of this offering goes to the Council for American Indian Ministries. The majority goes to the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries which works on economic justice, environmental justice and racial justice among other things.

You may give online at [cotcbos.org](http://cotcbos.org), by selecting the "peacemaking offering" option. Or you may send a check payable to Church of the Covenant, with "peacemaking" in the memo line, to 67 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116.

**ORDINATION TODAY:** Former Student Minister with us, Megan Berkowitz is getting ordained! Today, Sunday Oct. 3, 3pm [on Zoom](#).

**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 3, World Communion Sunday (Hybrid worship)
- 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)

[Zoom link for each Sunday](#)

## **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.

**NEW! 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.

**COTC BOOK GROUP OCTOBER 17:** The next COTC book group meeting via Zoom will be on October 17 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](mailto: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 Peace and Global Witness offering (following vigil); 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](#).

**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](mailto: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

**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:** 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](mailto:Trudi.Veldman).
- **Outdoor Evening Prayers:** Each week we alternate between in-person and on Zoom prayers.
- **Climate Jubilee Jaunts:** Once a month, our Climate Jubilee Team will be hosting some outdoor walks/ hikes in and around Boston. Stay tuned for news about future jaunts.

**IDA: WANT TO HELP?** Here are ways to help around Hurricane Ida, with BIPOC and food justice in focus: <https://anothergulf.com/ida/>

1. [Market Umbrella](#), and [Crescent Fund](#) will go directly support farmers, fishers, ranchers, and food producers.
2. [Sprout and VEGGI](#) and [Local Food Purchasing Fund](#), are supporting farmers and food producers through value chain coordination.
3. [Culture Aid](#) is bringing freshly prepared meals to distribution points around the city of New Orleans.

**AFGHAN REFUGEES: WANT TO HELP?** The [PCUSA](#) and [September 11 Webinar from UCC](#).

**CLIMATE JUBILEE TEAM “LINK OF THE MONTH”!:** A recent article our team recommends: Some good news: [Citing climate, court blocks vast Alaskan drilling project](#) and the PCUSA’s Hunger Program [provides this very](#)

[helpful set of links](#) on how we can collectively and individually respond to the recent IPCC report.

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR: GET VACCINATED!** At this church we believe fully in the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine and ask that everyone eligible get vaccinated. Check here for details: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/> If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rob, Joshua, Kate or our Deacons.

**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](http://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*