

# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



### *Gleaning Jubilee*

## A Processional Blessing for Our Climate

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

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



# Church of the Covenant

## Gleaning Jubilee

### A Processional Blessing for Our Climate

Gathering at George Robert White Memorial in Public Garden  
at the Corner of Arlington & Beacon Streets, Boston

September 19, 2021 10:30 am [Zoom Link](#)

Welcome and thank you for worshipping together! Today's service will be an outdoor service led by our Climate Jubilee Team and staff. We will gather at the George Robert White memorial statue "Angel of the Waters," or "Casting Bread Upon the Waters," at the corner of the Public Garden (corner of Arlington & Beacon streets) at 10:30am. Our service will consist of 3 "Blessing Stations" (Grounding, Growing, Gleaning), processing by foot from the Public Garden across the Arthur Fiedler footbridge, to the Hatch Shell and finishing at the water's edge along the Esplanade. If the cell coverage allows, we will do our best to Zoom this service as well using the same [weekly link](#).

For in person, please bring **a full water bottle** as we will each pour a small amount from our bottles into a central container as part of our liturgy.

If you are worshipping via Zoom, you are invited to also come to worship with **a cup of water**, and an empty bowl.

In solidarity with our unvaccinated children, please remain masked throughout this in-person service. Thank you.

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#### COTC Climate Jubilee 2021 Goals:

**Personal:** *What can we do as individuals in community?*

**Spiritual:** *How can our faith guide us in this work?*

**Relational:** *Who can we partner with and learn from in the spirit of solidarity and accompaniment, to inform our advocacy & action?*

#### Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: And also with you!

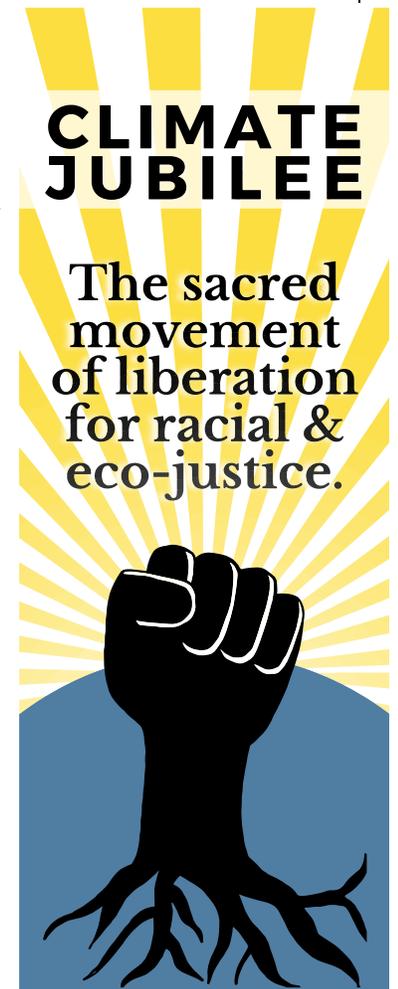
**Blessing Station #1: Casting Forth** – "Angel of the Waters"

Fountain, Boston Public Garden

**Gathering Music & Introduction:** *Ashokan Farewell*

Jay Ungar (Anita Gram and Joseph Jewett on violins)

**Kindling the Christ Light**



## Grounding

### Truth Telling Land Acknowledgement before Angels:

Christine James

One: *Imagine this...* Imagine,

Many: **We imagine and are awed.**

One: *Remember this...* Remember,

Many: **We remember and are humbled.**



### Angels in the Architecture: Liz

Vizza Welcoming

## Growing

### Ecclesiastes 11:1-10

Cast forth your bread upon the waters,  
for after many days you will get it back.

Divide your means seven ways, or even eight,  
for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth.

When clouds are full,  
they empty rain on the earth;

whether a tree falls to the south or to the north,  
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

Whoever observes the wind will not sow;  
and whoever regards the clouds will not reap.

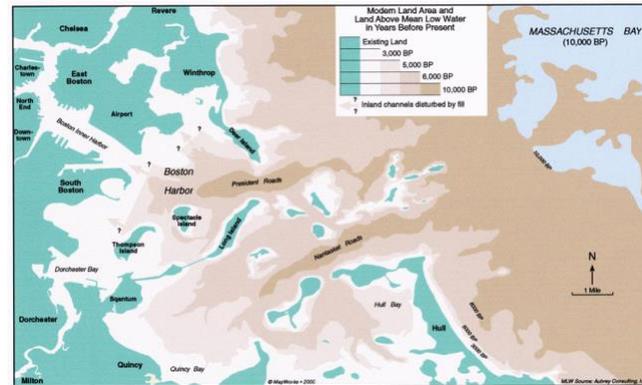
Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother's womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything.

In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle; for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

Even those who live for many years should rejoice in them all; yet let them remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

Rejoice, young one, while you are young, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth...



Banish anxiety from your mind, and put away pain from your body;  
for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

### Gleaning: Personal

**Gathering of the Waters:** What will you cast forth upon the waters? What skills and intentions do you bring for the work of climate jubilee?

*Answering this question, we invite you to come toward the fountain and pour a small amount of your water from your water bottle into the container. As you do so, name out loud or in your heart your intention.*

### Processional: *From Fountain to Field*

#### Responsive Psalm 93

One: God is in control. Clothed in majesty, equipped with strength.

**Many: God established the earth, it shall never be moved.**

One: God's reign is established from of old. God is from everlasting.

**Many: The floods have lifted up, O God. The floods have lifted up their voice. The floods are roaring.**

One: More majestic than the thunders of such mighty waters, more awesome than the waves of the sea,

**Many: Soaring on high is God!**

*As we process from this fountain over the Arthur Fielder bridge to the field at the Hatch Shell, please hold a form of contemplative silence. At the point of the bridge where we are crossing over the "disruption" marked by the traffic flow under us on Storrow Drive, pause for a moment to lift before God something you lament in light of climate chaos.*

### Blessing Station #2: *Seed Remembers* – Hatch Shell Field

#### Grounding

#### Prayer with Saint Basil the Great of Caesarea (330-379)

**Many:** O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our siblings the animals to whom thou gavest the earth as their home in common with us.

We **remember** with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live not for us alone but for themselves and for thee, and that they love the sweetness of life. AMEN.

**Beth Roach, Nottoway Tribe:** "While our climate is changing, rapidly, we must take this time to \*witness\* what we still have today. Record it. Burn it

into our memories. We gotta remember so that we can tell the future ones about these magical places... will y'all be memory keepers with me?"

### **Meditation from Mystic Julian of Norwich (1342-1416)**

"I saw that God was everything that is good and encouraging. God is our clothing that wraps, clasps, and encloses us, so as never to leave us. God showed me in my palm a little thing round as a ball about the size of a hazelnut. I looked at it with the eye of my understanding and asked myself: 'What is this thing?' And I was answered: 'It is everything that is created.' I wondered how it could survive since it seemed so little it could suddenly disintegrate into nothing. The answer came: 'It endures and ever will endure, because God loves it.' And so everything has being because of God's love."

**Musical Centering:** *Remembrance*

Hirsh (Joseph Jewett on guitar)

## **Growing**

### **Hildegard of Bingen**

God is the foundation for everything

This God undertakes, God gives.

Such that nothing that is necessary for life is lacking.

Now humankind needs a body that at all times honors and praises God. This body is supported in every way through the earth.

Thus the earth glorifies the power of God.

### **Sacred Text:** Selections from Luke 12

*Jesus began to speak...*

"Remember, do not worry about your life...

Consider the ravens...consider the lilies...

Do not keep worrying...

Do not be afraid, little flock, it is God's desire to give you the kingdom...

Sell your possessions, and give alms...

Where you treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Jesus also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to

interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

‘And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?’

**Eagle Poem:** by Joy Harjo

To pray you open your whole self

To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon

To one whole voice that is you.

And know there is more

That you can't see, can't hear;

Can't know except in moments

Steadily growing, and in languages

That aren't always sound but other

Circles of motion.

Like eagle that Sunday morning

Over Salt River. Circled in blue sky

In wind, swept our hearts clean

With sacred wings.

We see you, see ourselves and know

That we must take the utmost care

And kindness in all things.

Breathe in, knowing we are made of

All this, and breathe, knowing

We are truly blessed because we

Were born, and die soon within a

True circle of motion,

Like eagle rounding out the morning

Inside us.

We pray that it will be done

In beauty.

In beauty.

**Gleaning: Spiritual**

**Seed Like Memory Keepers:**

The Alliance of Native Seedkeepers (Monacan, Nottoway and Tuscarora), remind us that each seed saved serves as a memory keeper of the earth's bounty. In this spirit, we too can be memory keepers as we tell out of the current joys this earth provides. The bounty, the blessings, the abundances of the natural world as it is. As part of your embodied spiritual practice,

please take a card that contains wildflower seeds and out loud or in the silence of your heart, name something you take joy in on earth. Later this week, or when the season is right, plant this card somewhere as a sacramental sign of your willingness to become a seed like memory keeper.

**Processional: *From Field to Flow***

*As we process, you are invited to hold signs in witness and love in your heart.*

**Blessing Station #3: *Water is Life and Flow*** – Shores of the Quinobequin River

**Grounding**

**Song:** *Down By The Riverside*

I'm gonna lay down my burdens, down by the riverside. (x3)

I'm gonna lay down my burdens, down by the riverside, study war no more.

I ain't gonna study war no more. (x6)

**Growing**

**Wisdom from Today's Climate Activists:**

**Isra Hirsi:** "I am an 18-year old, black Muslim woman in the environmental justice movement...This movement is not one person, or one group. This movement is all of us and we need to make sure we value those who are disproportionately affected by this crisis. And allow those who are affected to lead."

**Xiye Bastida** (born 2002) is a Mexican-Chilean climate activist and member of the indigenous Mexican [Otomi-Toltec](#) nation:

"We don't call water a resource; we call it a sacred element. The relationship we have with everything that Earth offers, it's about reciprocity. That's the only way we are going to learn how to shift our culture from an extraction culture to a balanced and harmonious culture with the land."

**Sacred Text:** Ezekiel 47:5b-9,12

Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be many fish, once these waters reach there, It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water from them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.

It was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. God said to me, ‘Mortal, have you seen this?’

Then I was led back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on one side and on the other. God said to me, ‘This water flows...and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes.

On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.’

## **Gleaning: Relational**

### **Week of Action and Blessing:**

*We know the work of climate justice requires us to act and advocate beyond our personal choices to affect change on a larger societal level. In this spirit, we are invited to take this coming week to reach out in advocacy in the following ways:*

- On Monday, 9/20 at 2pm, attend a conversation about decolonizing and diversifying climate storytelling with Fix – Grist’s solution lab:  
<https://bit.ly/3nHA9f>
- On Tuesday, 9/21, help stop a fossil fuel power plant in Peabody: Sign this petition: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-fossil-fuel-power-plant-in-peabody/>
- On Wednesday, 9/22, Demand Cleaner Car Standards by urging the EPA: <https://bit.ly/3Cpd2xx>
- On Thursday, 9/23, for Bostonians, sign up for Community Choice Electricity: <https://bit.ly/3tRmpTG> OR, find out if your community takes part in this program that allows you to have greater control over where you energy comes from: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-aggregation>
- On Friday, 9/24, learn more about Brookline’s effort to restrict gas use in construction renovations to see if you can do the same in your city/town: <https://bit.ly/3lAYO6a> AND check out: <https://climable.org/>
- On Saturday, 9/25, celebrate the beginning of CREW’s Climate Preparedness Week: <https://bit.ly/3zp63Tv>

*As we raise our hands in blessing upon the Quinobequin, and let our water intentions join the sacred flow, let us give thanks to the Great Holy Spirit who nourishes us all.*

“The tide is rising, and so are we. The Land is Holy, and so are we. This is where we are called to be.” ~Rabbi Shoshona Meira Friedman

### **Charge and Benediction**

*Receive fruit from the River of Life and commit yourselves anew to the way of popular education and liberation.*

### **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** – Christine James, Nancy Stockford, Rev. Rob Mark, Rev. Kate Carlisle, Liz Vizza, Holly Humphreys, Diane Lauber, Barbara Darling

**Digital Zoom Minister** – Tom Handel, Minister of Music

**Musicians** – Joseph Jewett, Anita Gram

**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.

- September 19, Outdoor Climate Jubilee Service
- September 26, Rev. Joshua preaching
- October 3, World Communion Sunday, Reflection on the Word

**[Zoom link for each Sunday](#)**

**REGISTER FOR IN PERSON OPTION FOR WORSHIP!!** To register for today's worship service, please: <https://rsvp.church/r/L77KlTal> 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.

**NEW! WEDNESDAY IN-PERSON EVENING PRAYERS:** Join us this Wednesday, September 22, 6:00-7:00pm for our weekly evening prayers in solidarity with our siblings in faith at Newton Presbyterian Church at 75 Vernon St., Newton Corner. Please RVSP to [rob.mark@cotcbos.org](mailto:rob.mark@cotcbos.org)

**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

**NEW! 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](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org) at 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: September 26, October 17, 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](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org).

**CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** If you would like to learn more about or connect with our vital ministries with children and youth, [email Rev. Kate](mailto:kate@cotcbos.org).

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

**SAVE THE DATE:** Former Student Minister with us, Megan Berkowitz is getting ordained! Sunday Oct. 3, 3pm on Zoom.

**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](#).
- **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.

**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.

**CONTINUED GIVING:** Thank you for your continued 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*