Nancy Gade Hollomon

August 6, 1936 – August 15, 2026

A Celebration of Life and Witness to the Resurrection Service

October 10, 2026, 10:00 am

Church of the Covenant

67 Newbury Street, Boston, MA

A Celebration of Life
Nancy Gade Hollomon
August 6, 1936 – August 15, 2026

Prelude *Sheep May Safely Graze* J. S. Bach
Adagietto from Symphony #5 (excerpt) Gustav Mahler

Welcome & Opening Prayer Rev. Rob Mark

One: Peace be with you.
Many: And also with you.

*** Call to Worship** – Psalm 36

One: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
For with you is the fountain of life,
Many: In your light, we see light.
One: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
Your judgments are like the great deep;
You save humans and animals alike, O Lord.
For with you is the fountain of life,
Many: In your light, we see light.
One: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
For with you is the fountain of life,
Many: In your light, we see light.
One: They feast on the abundance of your house,
And you give them drink from the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life,
Many: In your light, we see light.

*** Opening Hymn** PH (blue) 464 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing foundation, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

Sacred Reading – 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 Elizabeth Hollomon Vrugtman

If I could speak every language of the Earth
and her skies, but did not Love, only noise would I make.
If I foretold the future, knew everything about everything,
yet not guided by Love, would I heal or harm?
I could make a mountain move with one breath.
I am nothing, still, unknown to myself.
Without Lovingkindness, If I give all I have away,
my own body, even, as an offering surrendered,
would good seed be sown, Life nourished?
For Love's integrity weaves patience, honesty, compassion,
openheartedness, openhandedness.
Never self-seeking, She shelters neither rage nor resentments,
makes no false peace with injustice, and rejoices with what is true.
Love persists. She bears all things, believes, hopes, endures.
Love never ends.

Remembrances Brad Hollomon
George Heaton

Musical Meditation *O What a Beautiful Morning* Richard Rodgers
Soloist – Sara Heaton

Poem – "Snow Geese" by Mary Oliver Jon Schwarz, Thiago Santos

Remembrances Tim Groves
Benjamin Richter

New Testament Reading – Revelation 22: 1-16 Sharon Matthews

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who have a right to the tree of life….It is I Jesus, who sent my angel to you… I am the root and the descendant of the holy ancestors, the bright morning star."

Hymn PH (blue) 555 *Now Thank We All Our God*

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Closing Prayer Rev. Rob Mark

The Prayer of Jesus (in unison)

Our Father and Mother, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*** Closing Hymn** NCH (black) 597 *Shall We Gather at the River*

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever, flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

As we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver, with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

Charge & Benediction

Postlude *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* Albert Von Tilzer

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During the postlude, all are invited to remain in the sanctuary to enjoy a light lunch reception provided by George Heaton with help from our Board of Deacons.

Service Participants

Officiant – Rev. Rob Mark, Lead Pastor, Church of the Covenant
Minister of Music – Thomas Handel, Minister of Music, Church of the Covenant
Soloist – Sara Heaton
Readings – Elizabeth Hollomon Vrugtman, Sharon Matthews, Jon Schwarz, Thiago Santos
Remembrances – Brad Hollomon, George Heaton, Tim Groves, Benjamin Richter
Audio-Visual Tech Team
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Nancy Gade Hollomon

Beloved daughter, sister, wife, grandmother, great-grandmother, and aunt, died peacefully August 15, 2026, in St. Paul, MN, near her grandson, Benjamin Richter. She was 90.

Born August 6, 1936, on the Gade family farm in Guilderland, NY, she was one of five generations, born on a farm that remains in operation more than 140 years later. Though her life took her far beyond New York, Nancy proudly called herself a "farm girl" and continued working at the family farm into her late 80s.

A graduate student in theater, Nancy became a respected costume designer and educator, teaching at Northwestern University, Utah State University in Logan, the University of Oklahoma, and later Pine Manor College. While in Oklahoma, she met and married the love of her life, J. Herbert Hollomon, then president of the University of Oklahoma and a former federal official in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

Upon arriving in Boston, Nancy and Herb settled in Brookline, where they restored a gracious old home and cultivated its garden. The house became the center of a life of travel, friendship, music, and generous hospitality, welcoming relatives, friends, international students, and fellow Red Sox fans.

Nancy brought uncommon devotion to the things she loved: the Boston Red Sox, music, books, ducks, and her Brookline community. For nearly 50 years, she held seats behind home plate at Fenway Park, maintained detailed game records, and formed lasting connections with players and their families. The Red Sox later honored her with opportunities to throw a ceremonial first pitch and take an at-bat.

An insatiable reader, Nancy led the MIT Women's Book Group and delighted in keeping several books in progress at once, with poetry and baseball among her particular favorites. She supported the Brattle Book Shop. Her annual Christmas parties—centered on a lovingly hand-decorated tree strung with thousands of lights, music from her Steinway grand piano, and a mandatory carol sing-along—were legendary.

A faithful congregant and supporter of the Church of the Covenant in Boston, Nancy combined a lifelong commitment to the church with steadfast advocacy for women's rights, civil rights, immigrant rights, and LGBTQ rights.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, J. Herbert Hollomon; her adopted son, Peter Richter; her parents, Elizabeth Thornhill Gade and John Hauf Gade; her sister, Greta Gade Radley; and her brother, Jack Gade. She is survived by her stepchildren, Jamie, Brad, and Duncan Hollomon, and Elizabeth Vrugtman; her grandchildren, Benjamin and Sebastian Richter, Daniel Vrugtman, Yvonne Featherer, and Andrew, Eric, and Jeffrey Hollomon; their children; and generations of the Gade family.

An interment ceremony will be held at 2:00 pm, Sunday, October 11, 2026, at Prospect Hill Cemetery and Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church in Guilderland, New York.
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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 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 marginalized, 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 as integral to our community. We maintain vital 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 our Commonwealth and both denominations to join couples of any sexual orientation in fully legal and holy marriage.

Covenant's sanctuary resides on the ancestral and unceded lands and waterways of the Massachusett people. We lament the pain of displacement, honor the ongoing work of repair, and give thanks for all past, present and future stewards of this sacred place.

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. Dr. Sara Garrard, *Transitional Associate Pastor*
Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*
Bill Brown, *Building Manager*
Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator*
Nancy Stockford, *Parish Administrator/Financial Secretary*
Jesús Vargas, *Sexton*
Venkatesh Balasubramanian, *Music Composition Fellow 2025-2026*
Soyoung Cho, *Childcare Provider*

CHURCH OFFICERS

Brian Bigler, *President of the Corporation*
Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*
Anita Gram, *Moderator of the Board of Deacons*
Faith Perry, *Treasurer*