

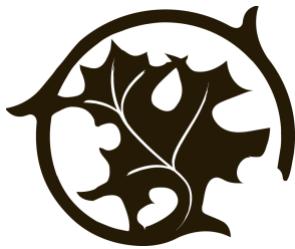
# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



Easter Sunday  
*Breathe*

*Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ*  
**ZOOM LINK (click here)**



## Church of the Covenant

April 4, 2021 10:30 am

Easter Sunday

Holy Communion

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlpTTEvRGNZUT09>

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## Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

**Many: And also with you!**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## Prelude

*The Joy and Radiance of Glorified Bodies*

Olivier Messiaen

“Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the dominion of God”

## Call To Worship

One: Like the sun that daily reminds us night gives way to dawn,

**Many: Let us rise!**

One: From the depths of despair,

**Many: Let us rise!**

One: From cynicism, isolation, self-judgement, and fear,

**Many: Let us rise!**

One: For today we hear the truth of hope for all of creation,

**Many: Life emerges from chaos.**

One: Today we celebrate the mystery of vitality bubbling up,

**Many: Life emerges from chaos.**

One: Today we confess the radical refrain that Christ is Risen!

**Many: Life emerges from chaos. Let us breathe in and let us  
breathe out: Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

## Kindling the Christ Light

## Attending to the Breath

*Lauren Star*

## Chiming of the Prayer Bowl

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

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

**Many:** O Holy God, Sacred Spirit-Breath, we have journeyed this Lent by attending to our breathing. And we have noticed you closer than the gift of each inhale, each exhale. Yet we have also noticed that too many around us and among us still can't breathe. We lament our complicity in unjust systems that privilege only some. We grieve over complacency in the face of a hurting earth's climate. And we long for a new path forward. We long to become repairers of the breach. Restorers of the streets to live in. So we ask as People of the Empty Tomb, that you would fill not just our lungs but our entire beings with your restorative and loving life flow.

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

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

## Assurance of God's Grace

One: Christ is Risen! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty.  
And today our hearts are found filled. Filled with the very Breath  
of God. Filled with a desire for a new life of forgiveness and  
reconciliation. Therefore, breathing freely together, let us celebrate:  
Many: In Jesus Christ we are set free and made whole.  
**Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!**

### Sung Response:

*Easter Celtic Alleluia*



G                    G                    D                    C                    G                    C                    D  
Al - le - lu - ia,    a - le - lu - ia!  
  
G                    G                    D                    C                    G                    C                    D G  
Al - le - lu - ia,    a - le - lu - ia!

### A Time with Children

*Rev. Kate Carlisle*

### Scripture Readings

*Nancy Hollomon*

#### Hebrew Scriptures Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.  
And God will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
God will swallow up death forever.

Then the Holy One will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of the people will be taken away from all the earth,  
for God has spoken.

It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; for whom we have been waiting, so that we  
might be saved. This is God for whom we have waited; let us be glad  
and rejoice in this salvation.

### **Gospel Reading:** Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

### **Sung Response:**

*Easter Celtic Alleluia*

### **Sermon**

*Good Grief*

### **Call to Offering**

Online Giving Option: <http://www.cotcbos.org/give.html>  
*Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General*

### **Offertory**

Hornpipe from *Water Music*

G. F. Handel

### **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 Holy Communion

## Invitation to Table

### The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!  
**Many:** And also with you.  
One: People of the Empty Tomb, let us lift up our hearts!  
**Many:** We open our hearts to the Spirit-Breath-with-us.  
One: Let us give thanks to God our light.  
**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 all the ancestors,  
with all the saints and the great company of heaven, we glorify  
your name, praising you together:  
**Many:** Holy, holy, holy One, God of heaven and earth.  
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 Jesus Prayer

(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.

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

## Post Communion Prayer

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed.  
In the desert all surrounding, See a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding, Bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits, From the caverns of despair.  
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.  
Drink the wine of resurrection, Not a servant, but a friend.  
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven, Never-more shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation, Where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!

## 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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*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!*

**COVER IMAGE:** *The Promise*, by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art |  
Inspired by Mark 16:1-8 | Acrylic & gold leaf on canvas

## Participating in Today's Worship

**Preaching** – Rev. Rob Mark

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Attending to the Breath Guide** – Lauren Star

**Liturgists** – Betty Southwick and Rev. Joshua Lazard

**Lector** – Nancy Hollomon

**Time with Children** – Rev. Kate Carlisle

**Jesus Prayer in Aramaic** – Claudine Ellyin

**Vocalists** – Tom Reid, Betsy Groves, Tim Groves, Barbara Darling, David

McKinney, Kathryn Barry, Nancy Stockford, Anita Gram, Christine James,  
Mocky Day, Sarah Perrault, Theodor Langenbruch, Arnold Rots,  
Rachel Case

**Redline Brass** – Kyle Spraker, Trumpet; Andrew Moreschi, Trumpet; Nick  
Rubenstein, French Horn; Philip Hyman, Bass Trombone; Michael  
Tybursky, Bass Trombone

**WELCOME, EASTER BLESSINGS & 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 on this Easter Sunday. While we lament that we can't greet you in person over our "traditional" Easter-hot-cross-buns in Bates Hall following today's worship, we are so glad you are with us today. We still feel deeply connected in the Spirit's blessing. As we all continue to do our part to love our neighbor as ourselves to help counter COVID-19, our building remains closed; all meetings and events that are offered, including worship, have shifted to an online or conference call format. We are grateful for the technology that allows the majority of us to gather together online. And in faith and through God's ceaseless, amazing grace—as we practice "social distancing" we also practice "spiritual nearing" to each other and the Sweet Holy Spirit.

**OUR BRASS MUSIC TODAY, THANKS TO REDLINE BRASS,** is offered in celebration of the life of Ed Cutler (May, 1935 –September, 2006). Ed was a beloved member of Church of the Covenant with a passion for music. In his youth he sang and played the violin. Before he lost his vision he sang in community and church choirs. He was a biology professor, avid "birder," and environmentalist who served on many local environmental committees. At COTC, he served on the Personnel Committee, supported youth group pilgrimages, and chaired the committee that called Minister of Music Tom Handel.

## **ATTENDING TO THE BREATH – INTRODUCTION TO OUR**

**BREATHING GUIDE:** Lauren Star has been teaching hatha yoga for 18 years, and at the core of hatha yoga is conscious breathing exercises. She was originally trained in the Sivananda Lineage at Ananda Kutir Ashram in Cape Town, South Africa. More recently she completed her Master's Degree in Yoga Studies at Loyola Marymount University (2020), and is currently working on a post-graduate certificate in Yoga Therapy. She has taught yoga and conscious breathing to people of all ages, in a variety of settings, including Women's Lunch Place! Conscious breathing is a practice with physiological benefits, including stress management and pain reduction. Many believe it has spiritual benefits as well, and it has been used by monks and nuns in many traditions as a way of turning within and connecting with God. During the Lenten services this year, Lauren Star will lead us in some simple 'conscious breathing' practices. Some of these will include gentle movement. We look forward to hearing your experiences of 'attending to the breath' and where that leads you physically, mentally, and spiritually.

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

- Easter Sunday, April 4, 10:30am Rev. Rob preaching, Communion, Redline Brass
- April 11, Guest Preacher, Rev. Brian Ellison from Covenant Network
- April 18, Presbytery of Boston led worship service / Vegan Potluck
- April 25 Earth Sunday service led by New England Youth Collaborative

**Zoom link for each Sunday:** <https://zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlpTTEvRGNZUT09>

## **IN CASE OF MAJOR TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES DURING**

**WORSHIP:** Should any major technical glitches arise during worship and Zoom become challenged / the meeting end before worship is over, please relocate to our YouTube livestream page where a new livestream will start up:

[youtube.com/channel/UCUgqWdRTyqb0yeOpR3x6UYA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgqWdRTyqb0yeOpR3x6UYA) In the case of minor technological glitches (your mic doesn't work, your video doesn't seem to work, feel free to reach out to any church staff member for assistance.

**CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** Each Sunday beginning at 9:45 we gather using Zoom for Godly Play and Youth Class. Our Godly Play class gathers to sing, share news with each other, pray together, and hear ancient and contemporary stories of our faith. Our Youth Class shares their weekly gathering rituals and explores topics of interest and curiosity in faith and identity. If you need a Zoom link, email [children@cotcbos.org](mailto:children@cotcbos.org) or contact Rev. Kate at [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org).

**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! We currently hold brunches (virtual for the time-being) on the third Sunday of each month. 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)

**BIBLE STUDY - FRIDAYS 11AM:** Our virtual Bible Study is meeting at 11:00 am on Fridays, studying the Gospel of Mark. 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

**EASTER EVENING PRAYERS 4/14 and 4/28:** Join us on two Wednesdays this month (April 14 and April 28) during this Easter season from 6-6:30pm for our evening prayer service. As we did in Lent, if you'd like to help choose a reading for either of these services, please [email](#). Zoom link for each Wednesday: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88999202076?pwd=bU9XQ0JuR0F1bXhrTUV2eVBDcHIxdz09>

**COVENANT BOOK DISCUSSION:** Covenant's book group will meet by Zoom on Sunday, April 25, at 5 PM to discuss the book [\*Dear White Christians\*](#) by Jennifer Harvey. As always, you are welcome whether or not you have read any of the book and whether or not you have ever attended a Covenant book discussion. For more information [email Barbara](#) at Zoom link forthcoming.

**EARTH DAY BOSTON 2021:** Evelyn Kimber is once again helping connect us with this year's [Earth Day Boston](#) 2021 free virtual event on Thursday, April 22, 7-8 PM. [Tune in here!](#) Rev. Rob has the honor of giving the invocation. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day last year revitalized the date as a day of action and events to heal and protect the environment and raise the alarm for the climate crisis. National Earth Day and Earth Day Boston were established to bring people together in this effort that impacts every living thing. Covenant is actively engaged as a Partner in both national and local organizing teams.

**CLIMATE POTLUCK & EARTH SUNDAY:** Covenant will celebrate Earth Month on Sunday, April 18, following a Presbytery led worship service, and by virtually sharing an after-service Plant-Based Meal and Discussion on how food choices impact the environment and climate change. Covenant's longtime vegans will be on hand for an "Ask Anything Q & A" about making a shift towards living more plant-based. On Sunday April 25, the New England youth collaborative (GLOW) will lead us in an Earth Sunday worship service at 10:30am.

**CREW INTERFAITH CLIMATE SUMMIT:** Healing, Helping and Building Resilience: Sunday, April 11, 2pm: [Click here to register.](#)

**MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE MAY 9, 9am:** The annual [Louis D. Brown Peace Institute](#) of Dorchester, will be doing their annual [Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#) again virtually. But this year you can also commit to walking each day for 25 days starting the day after Easter, in solidarity. This Walk is the Institute's major public fundraiser of the year. Please consider supporting the important resurrection work they do all year: support and healing to those who have lost a family member to homicide and to those families on the other side, support to community trying to heal, and work to prevent any further violence. The Peace Institute stands in the dark places, and brings true light, through its stated principles: **Love, Unity, Faith, Hope, Courage, Justice, and Forgiveness**. Knowing that vulnerable populations are hit much harder by our current situation, and aware of the extra pain of those who normally found the community and solidarity of the Walk to be an escape from personal isolation and grief, **please give what you can here on the [Church of the Covenant Team page](#), or send a check to Louis D. Brown Peace Institute at the address [here](#).** Contact Diane Lauber with any questions [dianelauber@comcast.net](mailto:dianelauber@comcast.net) or 978-376-6574. Thank you!!

**VACCINATIONS:** As we all know, our Commonwealth is in the process of ensuring everyone gets a COVID-19 vaccine according to MA/CDC guidelines/phasing – yet the process can feel a bit daunting and frustrating. As we give thanks for the miraculous reality of these vaccines, we lament the unequal access still in our state, and the confusing roll out. **There is a Mass.gov site by the Commonwealth where you can pre-register to be alerted when you are eligible and when there is availability:** <https://vaccinesignup.mass.gov/#/> If you are feeling confused, you are not alone, and we are here to help. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Rob, Joshua, Kate or our Deacons if you could use some help in making sense of this and making a plan to get vaccinated. We also recommend everyone be in touch with their PCP as a first step. And remember, even in the face of a long history of unequal health care access, we at COTC deeply believe in the importance and efficacy of this vaccine as a necessary next step in reaching public health. Here are some helpful websites:

<https://www.macovidvaccines.com/> and <https://www.cic-health.com/vaccines-location#fenway> and  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates>

**WHAT CAN I DO ONCE VACCINATED?** As we give thanks that increasing numbers of people are getting vaccinated, many are asking this question, here are a few guidelines:

[CDC Guidelines](#)

[Interactive Risk Assessment Tool](#)

**FACING OUR RACISM WORKSHOP:** Our friends at Co-operative Metropolitan Ministry are organizing an excellent few hours long workshop, join Rev. Rob, \$45 (scholarships available – please ask Rob), “Facing Our Racism: Becoming Conscious Partners” on Sunday, May 16, noon-4:30pm – [click here to register.](#)

**A CHALLENGING SEASON & MOTHER'S DAY CARDS:** One way we can help those experiencing homelessness in downtown Boston is to support our partners Women's Lunch Place, who have an ongoing wish list for items, found here: <https://womenslunchplace.org/in-kind-donations>. You can also support WLP by [purchasing beautiful Mother's Day cards](#) designed by WLP guest Darcy.

**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*

Anita Goncalves, *Child Care Provider*

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*