

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Jubilee:
Soil of Solidarity

Jubilee Series (2 of 3)
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Holy Communion
[ZOOM LINK \(click here\)](#)



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Holy Communion

Jubilee Series 2nd of 3

September 20, 2020 10:30 am

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlIpTTEvRGNZUT09>

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Prelude

Morning Has Broken

arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

Call To Worship

One: O God, as we gather to hear the soundings of jubilee,

Many: **Quiet in us every voice but your own.**

One: As the autumn equinox of equal day and night lands,

Many: **Give to us balance.**

One: As we long to live into hope for this world,

Many: **Stir in us solidarity.**

One: As we look beyond ourselves for liberation,

Many: **May we find new life in you.**

Lighting the Light of Christ

Opening Hymn: PH 332

Live Into Hope

1. Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God's own jubilee!

2. Live into hope the blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear--
A vision of our God brought near.

3. Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread,
To hear God's word and thus be fed.
4. Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace:

Canticle of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)

Refrain: *You have come to your people and set them free.*

Blessed are you, Holy One, the God of Israel;
you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant, David. **R**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant. **R**

This was the oath you swore to our ancestors Sarah & Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. **R**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before God to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of liberation by the forgiveness of their
sins. **R**

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in gloom and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **R**

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: O God, you have to your people to set us free. Therefore, let us celebrate with the trumpets of jubilee the good news of liberation:

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

Sung Response:

Song of Hope / Canto de esperanza

May the God of hope go with us everyday,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
Singing, share our joy with all;
Working, for a world that's new;
Faithful, when we hear Christ's call.

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 25: 1-5, 8-13, 17-24, 35-43, 55

God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying: ²Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a sabbath for God. ³For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; ⁴but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for God: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. ⁵You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. ⁸You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. ⁹Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the day of atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. ¹⁰And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. ¹¹That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you: you shall not sow, or reap the aftergrowth, or harvest the unpruned vines. ¹²For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces. ¹³In this year of jubilee you shall return, every one of you, to your property. ¹⁷You shall not cheat one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Holy One your God.

¹⁸You shall observe my statutes and faithfully keep my ordinances, so that you may live on the land securely. ¹⁹The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live on it securely. ²⁰Should you ask, ‘What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we may not sow or gather in our crop?’ ²¹I will order my blessing for you in the sixth year, so that it will yield a crop for three years. ²²When you sow in the eighth year, you will be eating from the old crop; until the ninth year, when its produce comes in, you shall eat the old. ²³The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants. ²⁴Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of the land.

³⁵If any of your kin fall into difficulty and become dependent on you, you shall support them; they shall live with you as though resident aliens. ³⁶Do not take interest in advance or otherwise make a profit from them, but fear your God; let them live with you. ³⁷You shall not lend them your money at interest taken in advance, or provide them food at a profit. ³⁸I am the Holy One your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan, to be your God.

³⁹If any who are dependent on you become so impoverished that they sell themselves to you, you shall not make them serve as slaves. ⁴⁰They shall remain with you as hired or bound laborers. They shall serve with you until the year of the jubilee. ⁴¹Then they and their children with them shall be free from your authority; they shall go back to their own family and return to their ancestral property. ⁴²For they are my servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves are sold. ⁴³You shall not rule over them with harshness, but shall fear your God.

⁵⁵For to me the people of Israel are servants; they are my servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt: I am the Holy One your God.

Sermon

Jubilee: Soil of Solidarity

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

Uncompagbre (A Colorado Peak)
“....chaired in the adamant of Time” (Walt Whitman)

Ernst Bacon

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

Gratitude for our new Associate Pastor Rev. Joshua Lazard

Celebrations and Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to 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.

The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!

Many: **And also with you.**

One: People of Covenant, let us lift up our hearts!

Many: **We open our hearts to the Spirit-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 Prayer of Jesus

(Casa del Sol)

Ground of all being, Mother of life, Father of the universe, Your name is sacred, beyond speaking. May we know your presence, may your longings be our longings in heart and in action. May there be food for the human family today and for the whole earth community. Forgive us the falseness of what we have done as we forgive those who are untrue to us. Do not forsake us in our time of conflict but lead us into new beginnings. For the light of life, the vitality of life, and the glory of life are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Post Communion Prayer

Closing Hymn: PH 386

O For a World

1. O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.
2. O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.
3. We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.
5. O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Charge & 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

Preacher – Rev. Rob Mark

Liturgist – Tom Reid

Lector – Kathryn Barry

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Cantors – Barbara Darling, Ted Goodfleisch, Tom Reid

PEACE BE WITH YOU IN THESE DAYS: We are delighted to welcome you to our community of faith! As we all do our part to love our neighbor as ourselves to help “flatten the curve” of the coronavirus/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.

The announcements that follow reflect the ongoing abundant life that is Church of the Covenant:

COMMUNION PREPARATION: Today we will once again celebrate communion together online as we celebrate the truth that the table of Jesus is unbound and is much wider and larger than any single wooden structure in any single church sanctuary. Before the time of the service you will want to gather some bread of any kind for you and those worshipping in the same place with you to break and share. Prepare a cup or cups and fill with juice, wine, or even water. Set these elements in the place where you experience worship. Perhaps you want to put them on a cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you. Perhaps you will light a candle or place a flower or plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. More instruction will be given during our liturgy in worship.

ADULT ED TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP: Our Climate Jubilee Team invites us to a unique chance to hear about the climate and racial justice work that drives the mission of [GreenRoots, Chelsea](#). John Walkey will speak to us about their mission and work. Simply stay on Zoom to join us!

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.

- Sundays, September 13-27 Special Sermon Series on the scriptural roots of Jubilee, Rev. Rob preaching:
 - September 13 **Jubilee: Roots in Rest:** Genesis, Exodus and Isaiah
 - September 20 **Jubilee: Soil of Solidarity:** Leviticus 25 / Communion
 - September 27 **Jubilee: Branches to Blessing:** Luke 4
- Sundays, October 4-18 Special Sermon Series on Climate Jubilee:
 - October 4 World Communion Sunday & Special Offering
 - October 11 Blessing of the Animals Service
 - October 18 Communion

Upcoming Sunday Adult Eds following worship:

- *Oct. 4 – Climate Jubilee Team helps us focus on voting with creation in mind this fall*
- *Oct. 11 – presentation and congregational meeting on the columbarium proposal at COTC*

Here are the Zoom details for Sundays:

join by computer/ tablet/ smartphone:

<https://zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlplTTEvRGNZUT09>

one tap mobile: +16465588656,,91025989890#,,#892502#

join by phone: +1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 910 2598 9890, Password: 892502

Some suggestions to aid in your worship for you to consider:

1. Printing the bulletin out in advance so you have it during worship
2. Pulling the bulletin up on a second device/phone/screen
3. Pulling both the bulletin up and Zoom, and switch between them as needed. The liturgy, songs, and scripture are the important times to have this bulletin visible if possible.
4. And if none of these options work for you, no worries—just following the link will be fine – you will be able to worship fully.

WEDS EVENING PRAYERS (in person): Sept 23 and 30 – for those who have signed up, please let Rob know if you haven't heard which day you've been allotted invited to join. Starting in October, we will resume Zoom weekly prayers.

CONGREGATION CLIMATE JUSTICE VOTER

CHALLENGE: Covenant's Council voted unanimously on August 18 to join the Congregation Climate Justice Voter Challenge initiated by the Southern New England Conference of the UCC. Needless to say, our country is at an important crossroads this year and our ability to address and deal with climate change and climate justice issues, as well as other important social justice issues which are important to us, will be affected by our elections this Fall. This is true at all levels – local, state and Federal. So voter engagement is crucial! And Council accepted the recommendation of the Climate Jubilee Team to join this Challenge for at least 75% of our members to sign. So please sign!--at this link: (<https://sneucc-reg.brtaapp.com/CreationCareVoterPledge>)

By signing the Pledge, one simply says that they “pledge to be a consistent voter” and “always to prioritize caring for God’s creation in how I vote.” The Challenge has two levels: First, individual congregations are asked to challenge themselves to have a least 75% of their members commit to being faithful and regular voters. Second, the Southern New England Conference's Environmental Ministries Team hopes that many churches in MA, CT and RI will join in accepting the Challenge for their congregations.

More information on the Congregation Climate Justice Voter Challenge is on the SNEUCC.org website (<https://www.sneucc.org/congregation-climate-justice-voter-challenge>).

BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS: We gather on Zoom at 10:00am for about an hour for a “BYOB” (bring your own Bible) gathering. Currently, we are taking a look at the Book of Psalms, which runs the gamut of human emotion. Drop in any week!

join by computer/ tablet/ smartphone:

<https://zoom.us/j/104478666?pwd=MHAWdEY5VVNvdVFkbVA1R2U3Z3NnUT09>

one tap mobile: +16465588656,,104478666#,,#,581626#

join by phone: (646) 558 8656, Meeting ID: 104 478 666, Password: 581626

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.

20s-30s-40s GROUP AT COVENANT: We have an active young adult group that meets regularly to create community, even while we can't be together physically. If you'd like to be added to our email list, contact one of our group leaders: Kathryn Barry, Melissa Morgan, or Tom Reid, youngadults@cotcbos.org

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.



"To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice." — Proverbs 21:3



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 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*

Hillary Gabbidon, *Parish Administrator*

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*

Nancy Stockford, *Financial Secretary*