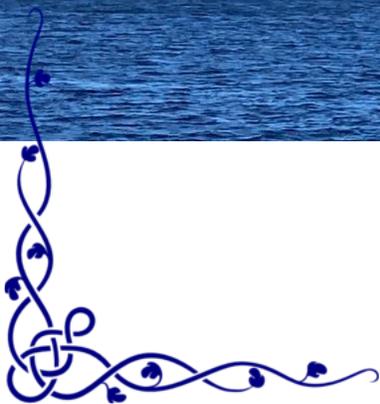


Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

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



Church of the Covenant
Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

July 11, 2021 10:30 am

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTllpTTEvRGNZUT09>

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Prelude

Appalachian Spring (excerpt)

Aaron Copland

Call to Worship

Enfleshed Liturgy by Rev. Molly Bolton

One: People of God! Let us not call the Beloved “conqueror”

Many: **or confuse Her devoted radicality with the ways of empire.**

One: God’s power is found where cycles of dominance

Many: **are danced into open fields of enough for all.**

One: God’s power is found in co-creating with what’s on hand:
A shared meal, a safe place to stay, a new way to celebrate

Many: **that refuses to raise a glass to anything stolen.**

One: When God’s power is among us, scarcity no longer reigns.

Many: **Thanks be to God, the source of our abundance.**

Kindling the Christ Light

Opening Hymn: PH 488

The God of Abraham Praise

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before Your holy name, forever blest.
2. Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;
In prophet’s word You spoke of old and you speak still.
Established in Your law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, or land.

3. You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: God of Abraham, Sarah, Malcolm, Aretha, and each of us, we reveal to you and each other that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not succeeded in dismantling unjust systemic evils in our society. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Child Jesus Christ, have compassion on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

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

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: God knows our soul's longings and with the most tender love, pours out mercy, compassion and forgiveness on us. Therefore join me in celebrating:

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

Sung Response:

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Refrain

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our
 hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your
 prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

Reading from Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

¹David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ²David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the HOLY ONE of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. ³They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart ⁴with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. ⁵David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the HOLY ONE with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals...

12bSo David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; ¹³and when those who bore the ark of GOD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. ¹⁴David danced before the HOLY ONE with all his might; David was girded with a

linen ephod. ¹⁵So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of GOD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

¹⁶As the ark of GOD came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before GOD; and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷They brought in the ark of GOD, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before GOD. ¹⁸When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the HOLY ONE of hosts, ¹⁹and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

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

Sermon

God, Are You Messing With Us?

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

Round Dance from Firebird (excerpt)

Igor Stravinsky

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Dedication

Celebrations and Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

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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## “Coffee-Half-Hour” Break-Out Rooms

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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!*

## Participating in Today's Worship

**Preacher** – Rev. Rob Mark

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Liturgists** – Alicia and Kathy Bull

**Lector** – Dan Evans

**Cantor** – Rev. Tom Reid

**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. While we lament that we can't greet you in person 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.

**NEW: “COFFEE HALF-HOUR” BREAK OUT ROOMS:** Today following the passing of peace time, we will break out into Zoom groups for some informal sharing/ fellowship. If you'd like not to be randomly assigned into a group, please just log off when invited to do so following the passing of the peace – thanks!

**NEW: 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.

- July 11, Rev. Rob preaching
- July 18, Livestream from Sanctuary, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
- July 25, Rev. Joshua preaching
- August 1, Reflection on the Word, Communion
- August 8, Rev. Kate preaching
- August 15, Rev. Joshua preaching, Communion
- August 22, Rev. Rob preaching

**Zoom link for each Sunday:** <https://zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlplTTEvRGNZUT09>

**NEW: SUMMER EVENING PRAYERS IN PERSON:** Join us this coming Wednesday 7/14 from 6-7pm for a safe, socially distanced outdoor in-person prayer in Brookline at Nancy Hollomon's beautiful garden. On August 24, we will gather in Cambridge for an in-person prayer and fellowship from 6-7pm.

**NEW: SUMMER EVENING PRAYERS ON ZOOM:** This summer, we will gather on Zoom from 6-6:30pm for a simple prayer time together on Wednesday July 28, August 11 and August 18. Zoom link for each Wednesday ([click here](#)).

**EMERGING & GETTING TOGETHER:** These past 15 months have been long and hard, and it has been extra hard being separated from in-person gatherings. This summer, we'd like to begin re-emerging well and safely together by providing some chances to gather together in-person, even before we can do so safely together in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. 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:** Our next outdoor Evening Prayer will be in Brookline on Weds. July 14, 6-7pm (see above). Other evening prayers on Wednesday can easily be hosted at your place! If you have room for up to 10 people to sit in a circle outside, please let Rob know and we’ll find a date.
- **NEW: Climate Jubilee Jaunts:** Once a month, our Climate Jubilee Team will be hosting some outdoor walks/ hikes in and around Boston. Here are the next two:
  - On Saturday, July 17, at 1 PM Evelyn Kimber will meet up at [The Peace Abbey](#) Interfaith Center in [Sherborn MA](#) with anyone interested in viewing the Gandhi Statue, [Peace Memorial Park](#), Global Pandemic Stone (over which Rev Rob did a blessing ceremony on April 2 as the 2.5 ton stone was pulled past Covenant) and the life-size statue of Emily the Cow. [Sign up here](#). Four signups needed for event to occur. [Contact Evelyn](#) with questions.
  - On Sunday, July 25, starting at 1 PM, Nancy Stockford and Mark Huston will lead a walk in the [Arnold Arboretum](#) in Jamaica Plain, part of Boston's Emerald Necklace. [Sign up here](#), and Nancy will send you directions, meetup location, and parking and public transportation information. [Contact Nancy](#) with questions.

**CLIMATE JUBILEE TEAM “LINK OF THE MONTH”!:** Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg has made a must-see short video on nature, the cost of an industrialized food system, and the action we can take before it's too late. It's a beauty. [Please watch it here.](#)

### **CYCE FAMILIES & 20s30s40s GATHERING, JULY 18**

Save the date for our joint gathering of 20s30s40s folks and CYCE families on Sunday, July 18 at 5:00 pm, in the Arnold Arboretum. Rev. Joshua and Rev. Kate are eager for a chance to get to know folks better after so many months mostly online. Bring your kids, bring your (child- and other-pet-friendly!) dogs, bring a blanket or chairs. More details to come. Questions? Email [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org) or [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 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

**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)

**CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** Our Godly Play and Youth Class will not be meeting for the summer. If you would like to learn more about or connect with our ministries with children and youth, email Rev. Kate at [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org).

**STAFF SCHEDULES:** Pastor Joshua will be on vacation July 4-16 – please contact Pastor Rob if you need something in his absence.

**SUMMER SABBATH:** Rev. Rob’s annual Summer Sabbath (2 weeks unpaid furlough, 2 weeks vacation) will be July 20-August 17. Please contact Rev. Joshua or chair of Deacons, Anita Gram, with pastoral needs during this time.

**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 – and recently opened up to kids 12-15. Check here: [Mass.gov](https://www.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. 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](#)

**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*