

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Third Sunday of Pentecost

Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

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



Church of the Covenant

June 6, 2021 10:30 am

Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTllpTTEvRGZUT09>

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!
Many: **And also with you!**

Prelude

Shall We Gather at the River

Call to Worship

One: We come to worship to say **WOW**.
Many: **We say WOW for the ways that we experience God at work in our lives.**

One: We say **WOW** for the beauty of the earth around us.
Many: **We say WOW for everyone in our lives and the friendship that they bring.**

One: And we say **WOW** for the gift of this day, this opportunity to be together as a church family in these creative and sacred spaces.

One: We come to worship to ask God **HELP**.
Many: **We ask for HELP for the ways that our world is hurting.**

One: We ask for **HELP** with our sadness.
Many: **We ask for HELP with our anger.**
One: We ask for **HELP** for the people who we love and pray for.

One: We come to worship to say we're **SORRY**.
Many: **SORRY for the ways we have hurt someone else.**
One: **SORRY** for the times we ignore someone in need.
Many: **SORRY for the times we have forgotten to love ourselves.**

One: And lastly, we come to worship to give God **THANKS**
Many: **We say THANKS for the blessings in our lives.**
One: We say **THANKS** for the people we love and who love us.
Many: **We say THANKS for the warmth of community.**
One: And we say **THANKS** for God's presence, always with us and always within us.

Kindling the Christ Light

Opening Hymn:

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: **God, you are awesome! Your love is everything! And we thank you. Sometimes, we forget how much you love us, and how much we need to love ourselves and our neighbors. Help us to love and be loved.**

One: Let us know enjoy some time in silences, opening ourselves to God's love...

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.
Let us celebrate together:

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

Reading from Scripture: Luke 3:21-22

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Reflection

Celebrations and Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

The Sacrament of Baptism: William Andrew Toles

Invitation to the Font of Every Blessing

Baptism Gathering Song

Down in the River

Chorus: As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown,
Good Lord, show me the way

1. O children, let's go down, let's go down, come on down
O children, let's go down, down in the river to pray. Chorus.
2. O family, let's go down...

Questions for the Congregation

Do we, members of Church of the Covenant, trust in the connectional church? Do we trust that William will be held in God's grace wherever his journey in life and faith lead? Do we entrust the nurture, spiritual formation and education in faith for William into the hands of another congregation in a different watershed as they move back to Texas the end of this month? Will we pray for Laura, Jon and Forrest to find a new faith community where they will feel at home and where William can know that he is loved by God and where his questions and inquiry will be honored? And during their transition to such a new church home, will we offer our support and solidarity from afar? And finally, will we give thanks that Iggy is always held in the Spirit's loving care?

If so, please answer together: **"We do and we will."**

Welcoming the Newly Baptized

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.**

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

Worship Leaders – Rev. Kate Carlisle, Rev. Rob Mark & Rev. Joshua Lazard

Musicians – Joseph Jewett, Anita Gram, Laura Toles, Rob Mark

Cover Art: "Baptism of Jesus II" by He Qi

OFFERING TODAY: We will not have a time in the service for you to give your offering, so we invite you before or afterwards to consider giving:

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

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

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.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM SUNDAY, JUNE 6: This Sunday June 6, we have a very special opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of baptism with William (“Iggy”) Toles outside along the banks of the Quinobequin (settler named “Charles”) River. Those who will gather in-person on our collective behalf will be our beloved CYCE community, along with the Toles family and worship leaders. Unfortunately, to keep with safe numbers of gathering guidelines, we can't open this up to more congregants than this – but all other congregants will be invited to worship along as per usual on Zoom. And we will pray that all the technology works to allow for worshipping from these multiple spaces (and if not, the service will be recorded and re-broadcast as a back-up!).

SIGN UP FOR THE CLIMATE JUBILEE JAUNT TODAY, JUNE 6.

Join Rev. Rob Mark for a walk along the Charles River Esplanade this Sunday, June 6, meeting at 12 noon at the Hatch Shell. Let us know you are joining in! Depending on the weather (will be hot!) and group, we'll decide how far we jaunt together. [Sign up here.](#)

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

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.

- June 6, Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism of William Toles
- June 13, Rev. Rob preaching, Thanking & Commissioning our Teachers
- June 20, Rev. Kate preaching
- June 27, More Light Presbyterians Guest Virtual Pulpit, Rev. Annanda Barclay

Zoom link for each Sunday: <https://zoom.us/j/9102598990?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlRTEvRGNZUT09>

EMERGING & GETTING TOGETHER: These past 14 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](#).
- **Climate Jubilee Jaunts:** Once a month, our Climate Jubilee Team will be hosting some outdoor walks/ hikes in and around Boston. Our first will be on **June 6 at noon**, meeting at the hatshell along the esplanade. Other locations so far will be Franklin Park and the Arboretum. Contact [Betty Southwick](#) with questions. [PLEASE RSVP HERE.](#)
- **Outdoor Evening Prayers:** Our 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 and then promote.

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.](#)

STAFF SCHEDULES: Pastor Rob's Eco-Stewards week is June 14-21 and he will be out of reach that week, so please be in touch with [Pastor Joshua](#) or our Chair of Deacons [Anita Gram](#) with any pastoral emergencies. Pastor Joshua will be on vacation June 20-27 and Rev. Kate Carlisle will be on vacation June 21-25 – please contact Pastor Rob if you need something in their absence.

BRIAN REARDON'S MEMORIAL SERVICE: [See this link for a video](#) recording of our former Building Manager/ Parish Administrator's celebration of life service on 5-25-21.

EVENING PRAYERS: Join us each Wednesday during from 6-6:30pm for our evening prayer service. If you'd like to help choose a reading, song or photo image/artwork for these services, please [email](#). Zoom link for each Wednesday: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88999202076?pwd=bU9XQ0JuR0F1bXhrTUV2eVBDcHIxdz09>

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

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 or contact Rev. Kate at kate.carlisle@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. We gather on Zoom for about an hour for a "BYOB" (bring your own Bible) gathering. Let us know if you'd like to be sent the Zoom link, and drop in any week! No homework required!

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](#). 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

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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*