

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



The Day of Pentecost

Holy Communion

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

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



Church of the Covenant

May 23, 2021 10:30 am

The Day of Pentecost

Holy Communion

Zoom Link:

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

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Prelude

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

arr. Fred Bock

Call to Worship

One: God who moved over the deep in a holy breath,

Many: **Come to us this day - Pentecost.**

Arrive in the wind.

One: God who spoke in a bush that was burned but not consumed,

Many: **Come to us this day - Pentecost.**

Arrive in a holy flame.

One: God who is present each time we gather at the table,

Many: **Come to us this day - Pentecost.**

Arrive in bread and cup, conversation and connection.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit.

Set us aflame, but do not consume us.

Fill us with holy nourishment.

Many: **We have arrived this day - Pentecost.**

We have come to worship.

Kindling the Christ Light & Soaring the Dove

Opening Hymn: PH 131

Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow

1. Wind who makes all winds that blow—
Gusts that bend the saplings low,
Gales that heave the sea in waves,
Stirrings in the mind's deep caves—

Aim Your breath with steady power
On Your Church this day, this hour.
Raise, renew the life we've lost,
Spirit God of Pentecost.

2. Fire who fuels all fires that burn—
Suns around which planets turn,
Beacons marking reefs and shoals,
Shining truth to guide our souls—
Come to us as one You came:
Burst in tongues of sacred flame!
Light and Power, Might and Strength,
Fill Your church, its breadth and length.
3. Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame,
Move within our mortal frame.
Make our hearts an altar pyre,
Kindle them with Your own fire.
Breathe and blow upon that blaze
Till our lives, our deeds and ways,
Speak that tongue which every land
By Your grace shall understand.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: Spirit God, blow into our lives, comfort and guide us, move us to action, break down the walls that separate us. Where our language divides, offer us translation. Where our fear overcomes, fill us with the fire of courage. Where our lives are becalmed, fill our sails with wind, moving us forward into the unknown future. Fill us with the hope and promise of your presence.

One: In the hope of the Sweet Spirit, let us open ourselves now in silent prayer...

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

(by Jessica Powers, OCD)

One: To live with the Spirit of God is to be a listener. It is to keep the vigil of mystery, earthless and still. One leans to catch the stirring of the Spirit, strange as the wind's will.

The soul that walks where the wind of the Spirit blows turns like a wandering weather-vane toward love. It may lament like Job or Jeremiah, echo the wounded hart, the mateless dove. It may rejoice in spaciousness of meadow that emulates the freedom of the sky.

To live with the Spirit of God is to become love. The soul is all activity, all silence; and though it surges Godward to its goal, it holds, as moving earth holds sleeping noonday, the peace that is the listening of the soul.

Therefore, fellow Spirit-listeners, let us celebrate together:

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

Sung Response:

Sweet, Sweet Spirit (refrain)

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise,
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

Reading from Scripture: Acts 2: 2-18

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout people from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking

Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “People of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all humankind,
and your children shall prophesy,
and your young ones shall see visions,
and your old ones shall dream dreams.
Even on the most insignificant of my people, people of all genders, in
those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.’”

Sermon

Let Us Go

Moment for Mission: Strengthen the Church/ Pentecost Special Offering

Call to Offering & Strengthen the Church/Pentecost Special Offering

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

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

Offertory

Veni, Sancte, Spiritus

Taizé Chant

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

In preparation for this sacrament, please gather a bread product (bread, tortilla, gluten-free cracker, etc.), and a liquid (grape juice, wine, water, etc.) to take in when invited.

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!

Many: **And also with you.**

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

Many: **We open our hearts to God who fills us with hope.**

One: Let us give thanks to God our light.

Many: **It is right for us to offer our thanks and praise to the One who loves us.**

One: It is right for us to thank and praise you God...

...And so, with your people here on earth, with all the ancestors, 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

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 & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Month Meetings

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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

**Preaching** – Rev. Rob Mark

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Liturgist** – Rev. Joshua Lazard

**Lector** – Nancy Hollomon

**Moment for Mission** – Barbara Darling

**Cantor** – Rev. Tom Reid

**TODAY'S BULLETIN COVER** is “Rainbow Bird” by Laura Hollick. Photo by Kevin Thom.

**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.

**“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!

**PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING:** On this Pentecost Sunday we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit. COTC is collecting a special offering on behalf of our two denominations to demonstrate the Holy Spirit's power to transform the world and each of us. The UCC's Strengthen the Church offering supports new and innovative ministries in UCC churches. This support has been especially valuable and necessary during the pandemic! The PCUSA Pentecost offering is used to invest in young people through programs like Young Adult Volunteers and providing aid to at-risk children. As our congregation grieves and condemns the recent upsurge in anti-Asian hate crimes, the Mission and Advocacy Committee has decided to contribute a portion of this year's offering to the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, which empowers Asians and new immigrants by providing programming, family support, workforce development, and education. Please consider investing in the future of our two denominations by giving to the Pentecost-Strengthen the Church offerings.

**COVENANT BOOK DISCUSSION TODAY!:** Today at 5pm, there will be a discussion of the second half of the book *Dear White Christians* by Jennifer Harvey. As always, you are welcome whether or not you've ever attended a Covenant book discussion before and whether or not you've read the book. Here's the Zoom link, and we look forward to seeing you!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://wheatoncollege-edu.zoom.us/j/98807950488>  
Questions? Email [barbarakdarling@yahoo.com](mailto:barbarakdarling@yahoo.com)

**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.

- May 23, Pentecost, Communion, Rev. Rob preaching
- May 30, Reflection on the Word
- June 6, Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism of William Toles
- June 13, Rev. Rob preaching, Thanking & Commissioning our Teachers

**Zoom link for each Sunday:** <https://zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlRTEvRGNZUT09>

## **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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Betty.Southwick) with questions.

- **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.

**CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM SUNDAY, JUNE 6:** On 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!).

**CLIMATE JUBILEE TEAM "LINK OF THE WEEK":** We highly recommend signing up for a monthly newsletter from Bill McKibben (self-described Methodist Sunday School Teacher) through the New Yorker on the climate crisis: <https://www.newyorker.com/newsletter/the-climate-crisis>

**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](mailto: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](mailto:children@cotcbos.org) or contact Rev. Kate at [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto: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](mailto: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!

**REMINDER: COTCONNECTS & COTCBOS LISTSERVS:** In December, Yahoo! Groups closed permanently and we moved the longstanding COTC community discussion group listservs over to a service called groups.io. While groups.io has been working very well for our purposes these last few months, we have noticed many folks either have not joined yet or have not been able to join. We know that, in particular, there was difficulty for some of you with gmail addresses due to the gmail outages in December. If you have not been receiving occasional emails marked [cotcbos] and [cotconnects], you are not enrolled for either or both of those listservs. This announcement is a reminder and encouragement to sign up for COTC Connects and COTCBOS, if you would like. COTC Connects is a moderated listserv for church-related matters such as prayer requests and event updates. COTCBOS is the unmoderated listserv for non-church-related matters, such as questions, requests, job postings, life updates, etc. Official announcements from the church, including This Week at Covenant, continue to be sent out from Constant Contact. To join COTC Connects, send an email to [cotconnects+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:cotconnects+subscribe@groups.io). To join COTCBOS, send an email to [cotcbos+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:cotcbos+subscribe@groups.io). Be sure to send those emails from the address with which you want to join. For assistance with joining or any other listserv issues, please email Kate at [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org). See more about signing up for COTC communications [here](#).

**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*

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*