

# Church of the Covenant

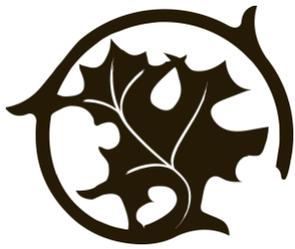
## Boston, MA



## Trinity Sunday

*Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ*

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



## Church of the Covenant

May 30, 2021 10:30 am

Trinity Sunday / Reflection on the Word

Zoom Link:

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

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### Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

**Prelude**      *Meditation 8 on the Mysteries of the Holy Trinity*      Olivier Messiaen

**Call to Worship.** (by Rev. J. Lee Hill, Christian Fellowship Congregational UCC)

One: Let us worship the Triune God.

Many: **Let us worship the One  
who spoke in the beginning  
and created something out of nothing.**

One: Let us worship the Triune God.

Many: **Let us worship the One  
who took on the clothing of humanity  
to set those who were oppressed free.**

One: Let us worship the Triune God.

Many: **Let us worship the One  
whose Spirit rests continually upon us,  
calling us from sorrow-filled endings  
to bright new beginnings.**

### Kindling the Christ Light

**Opening Hymn:** *NCH 273*

*Praise with Joy the World's Creator*

Praise with joy the world's Creator,  
God of justice, love and peace,  
Source and end of human knowledge,  
Grace bestowing without cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory -  
Power to rescue and release.

Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,  
Frees the captive, finds the lost,  
Heals the sick, upsets religion,  
Fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence -  
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
Liberating truth from pride,  
Forging bonds where race or gender,  
Age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -  
Foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Christ and Spirit,  
One God in community,  
Calling Christians to embody  
Oneness and diversity.  
Thus the world shall yet believe, when  
Shown Christ's vibrant unity.

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

**Many:**      **Mystery of God, heartbeat of the universe, center of spirited change and rebirth, we glorify your ways: the ways of dignity and justice, the ways of love for all creatures, the ways of caring for the earth. In the rush of living, let us not miss you. Let us be simple in our needs, showing compassion for our neighbor, sharing generously what we have, letting go our hurts and fears. For in you we find peace, in you we find hope, and in you we find courage, now and forever.**

**One:**      In the sound of silence, let us now open ourselves to God...

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

### **Assurance of God's Grace**

**One:**      Friends, remember this wonderful, mystical, practical, joyful good news – the creating, redeeming and sustaining God is with you. This God is within you. This God is within us all. 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: John 3:1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a religious leader. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Child of Humanity. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Child of Humanity be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that God gave their only Child, so that everyone who believes in this child may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Child into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved."

## Reflection on the Word

### Call to Offering

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

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

### Offertory

*Cabin in the Rain*

Ernst Bacon

### 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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*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

**Liturgist** – Trudi Veldman

**Worship Leaders** – Rev. Rob Mark and Rev. Joshua Lazard

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Lector** – William Ferrer

**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.

**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 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
- June 20, Rev. Kate preaching, Holy Communion

**Zoom link for each Sunday:** <https://zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlRlTTEvRGZUT09>

### **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](#).
- **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.
- **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!).

**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.

**CLIMATE JUBILEE TEAM “LINK OF THE WEEK”!:** This week's newsletter from Bill McKibben shares new research about natural gas. *"Now we understand that natural gas—which is primarily made of methane—leaks unburned at every stage from fracking to combustion, whether in a power plant or on top of your stove, in sufficient quantities to make it an enormous climate danger."* If you didn't already sign up for McKibben's newsletter, as Rev. Rob suggested last week, we urge you to sign up and learn more about this story. <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!

**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

**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*