

Church of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ



Trinity Sunday
June 2, 2024



Church of the Covenant

Trinity Sunday

June 2, 2024, 10:30 am [Zoom Link](#)

Welcome and thank you for worshipping together for this “hybrid” service where some will be in the sanctuary at 67 Newbury Street, and some in the sanctuary of places far and near. For those joining online, we begin on Zoom at the link above. Please keep your mic muted during the service.

**You are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude

“Prayer Before Communion”
from *Book of the Holy Sacrament*

Olivier Messiaen

“Lord, I am not worthy to receive you... but only say the word” (Matthew 8:8)

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: And also with you.

* Call to Worship

One: In times of trouble, when all seemed hopeless, I cried out to God.

Many: **And God heard my prayers and answered me.**

One: When I felt lost and alone, I looked for God.

Many: **And God found me and brought me home.**

One: When my life was filled with joy and blessing, I danced and praised God.

Many: **And God danced and rejoiced with me. Thanks be to God.**

* Kindling the Christ Light

One: The light of Christ

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

* Opening Hymn NCH (black) 275

Come Now, Almighty God

Come now, Almighty God, help us your name to laud; our songs we raise:
Ruler all glorious, o'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!

Come now, Incarnate Word, by heaven and earth adored; our prayer attend:
Come, and your people bless, and give your word success;
Grant us your holiness, Savior and Friend!

Come, Holy Comforter, your sacred witness bear in this glad hour.
Your grace to us impart, now rule in every heart,
Never from us depart, Spirit of power!

To you, great One in Three, eternal praises be for evermore.
Your sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Many: **God, in this growing season, open our hearts to grow in your love. Help us to truly trust in your creative process in our lives. We look around and we see the beauty of your world, the blossoming flowers and plants, the growth of children, the joy of celebrations of graduation, and of receiving new life. And we also see the sadness and sorrow that has invaded the world when systems of injustice and hatred lay claim to people's lives. Prepare us, O God, to be ambassadors of peace and hope. Be with us as we place our trust in you, so that when we are serving others, they may come to know you in light and darkness, in revelation and mystery. Grant us the courage to press forward in great joy as we serve you.**

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

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Let go of your fears and doubts. God pours God's love on you, in you, and through you to others. Be at peace.

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

* Sung Response PH (blue) 315 (refrain)

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Readings from Scripture

Hebrew Bible Reading – Exodus 20:18-22

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of God upon you so that you do not sin.” Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves how I spoke with you from heaven....”

Gospel Reading – Mark 6:49-52

But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out, for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Then he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased, and they were utterly astounded.

New Testament Reading – 1 Corinthians 13:8b-12

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

One: God is still speaking, the word of God,

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Sermon

“The Dilemmas of Darkness”

Call to Offering

Online Giving Option: www.cotcbos.org/give
Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General.

Offertory

“Meditation 8”
from *Meditations on the Mysteries of the Holy Trinity*

Olivier Messiaen

*** Communion Doxology**

Tune: *Old Hundredth*

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 & Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

*** Communion Summons**

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 Pentecost, let us lift up our hearts!

Many: We open our hearts to the Spirit 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 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,
and 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** *(in unison)*

Our God in heaven, holy is your name.

Your reign come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Post Communion Prayer

* **Closing Hymn PH (blue) 138** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

* 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.

Worship Participants

Preacher – Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Liturgist – Betty Southwick

Lector – Mark Huston

Usher – Trudi Veldman

Communion Servers – Debbie Howland, Sally Pomeroy

Digital Minister – Christine James

Audio Visual Tech Team – Venkatesh Balasubramanian, Abhishek John, Jon Schwarz

Sexton – Jesús Vargas

THE FLOWERS in the chancel today are given in memory of Robert W. Esposito by Stanley G. Dingwell, his longtime friend and companion.

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE COVENANT! We are so glad to have you worshipping with us today! If you are new to our community, we hope you will feel at home and welcomed during this service. If you have any questions about who we are as a community of faith, please reach out to an usher in person or our Digital Minister in the chat.



NEW TO COTC? We are so glad you are here! Let us know a little bit about how we can welcome you by filling out the form at this QR code, and learn more on our website at cotcbos.org.

A NOTE ON THE OFFERTORY: Olivier Messiaen's *Meditations on the Mysteries of the Holy Trinity* is a massive work of nine movements, lasting approximately one hour. Composed in 1969, the work features a highly developed language of symbols including Gregorian chant, rhythmic patterns from classical Indian music, representative motives in the style of Wagner, birdsong, and even an invented musical alphabet. Messiaen's goal was lofty: to communicate in the language of angels. The score of "Meditation 8" is filled with extra-musical information that will be projected during this morning's Offertory. The unifying message is symbolized by an unaccompanied Gregorian Chant representing the simplicity of God.

UPCOMING WORSHIP. Please join us each Sunday at 10:30 am and during the special services listed below as we come together in community to pray, sing, share celebrations and concerns, and hear God's still-speaking Word proclaimed in these hybrid services (in-person and Zoom options). [Zoom Link for each service.](#)

- Sunday, June 9: Pride Sunday, Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard preaching
- Sunday, June 16: Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard preaching, Holy Communion, All-Church Picnic After Worship
- Sunday, June 23: Rev. Kate Carlisle preaching
- Sunday, June 30: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching

BOSTON PRIDE FOR THE PEOPLE ON JUNE 8! Join us to march in Boston's Pride for the People Parade on **Saturday, June 8**. The parade starts at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome! We'll be marching with folks from other churches in the Presbytery, and we hope to have a big Covenant group. Stay tuned for more information, and let Rev. Joshua (joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org) know if you're interested in taking part or if you have any questions.

COME ONE, COME ALL! TO THE ALL-CHURCH PICNIC ON JUNE

16! Join us on **Sunday, June 16**, after worship to celebrate the beginning of summer with a picnic. We will meet in the Public Garden, near the Arlington/Beacon corner, by the sculpture of the angel casting bread on the water. Please bring: your lunch, a simple finger food to share, something to sit on, and a ball or frisbee, etc. If you would like to walk over together, we will meet at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like a ride, please call/text Kathy at (781) 799-2983 by June 15. In case of rain, we will picnic in Bates Hall. Please bring the same food as described above and a game that can be played inside.

REV. ROB ON EXTENDED REFLECTION LEAVE. Lead Pastor Rob Mark is away until September 12, taking three months of Extended Reflection/Study Leave, along with some vacation and unpaid leave. Rev. Joshua is serving as full-time Lead Pastor during this time. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rev. Joshua (joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org).

WELCOME CHILDREN & YOUTH!! We offer Christian education through Godly Play for ages 3-9, youth classes for ages 10-13 and 14+, and a nursery for the littlest ones. We welcome all children, youth, and families—those we know already and those who are here for the first time. If you need help finding us, please ask an usher. We share CYCE info regularly via email, so please email Rev. Kate at kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org if you want to receive updates!

LET'S CELEBRATE MARY ROBINSON TURNING 90 WHILE SUPPORTING THE RESTORATION OF THE MADONNA WINDOW!

Our beloved Mary Robinson will be turning 90 on August 21! She is hoping to use this major milestone to raise funds for Covenant's planned restoration of the Madonna window, due to start this summer. Mary is hoping YOU will participate by setting aside some amount (1 penny, 1 nickel, 1 dime, 1 quarter, 1 dollar, \$10 or more!) every day or every week starting on May 21 (90 days out), and then contribute the total amount saved by August 21 (the big birthday) to Covenant for the work on the Madonna window. Mary appreciates your participation! Please let Parish Administrator Nancy Stockford (nancy.stockford@cotcbos.org) know if you have any questions.

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS. Our weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:45 on Zoom. We are studying the Gospel of Mark. If you'd like more information or want to be on the list to get regular reminders and Zoom info, contact Jan Gough at revjangough@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS 6:00-6:30 pm. Join us for our weekly Wednesday evening prayers with intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms, and sharing of prayers with our siblings from Newton Presbyterian [on Zoom](#) (link on <http://www.cotcbos.org>).

OPEN NEWBURY RETURNING THIS SUMMER. Newbury Street will be closed to motor vehicle traffic on ten consecutive **Sundays from June 30 to September 1**, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. Please plan your travel to church accordingly. For more information, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/open-newbury-street>.

VIDEO CAMERAS/POSTING FULL SERVICE RECORDINGS. To best serve our diverse community and new worshippers, we livestream and record each service, including Celebrations & Concerns. If you would prefer not to be in occasional camera shots, you are welcome to sit on the outside aisles on either side of the sanctuary. Recordings of each service are available on our [Worship Recordings Page](#) (cotcbos.org/worship-recordings).

WEEKLY CALENDAR. Click [here](#) (cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events) to view the weekly calendar of events.

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!

Visitor or Newcomer? Welcome to Church of the Covenant!

We are glad you are here. Please let us know if there are ways we can help you connect to the church community. Learn more about the church by visiting our website at www.cotcbos.org. To sign up for email updates about worship services and other events in our community, please fill out a visitor's card in your pew, or email us at info@cotcbos.org.

Parking Bargain – Worshippers may park at the Back Bay Garage [Clarendon Street, between Boylston and St. James] on Sundays between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm for the first three (3) hours for only \$5. To get this discounted rate, please ask an usher before or after the worship service for a parking discount voucher.

Prayers of Celebration or Concern May Be Shared in the Red Book – At the rear of the Sanctuary is a red book where prayers that you wish to have spoken aloud during the Pastoral Prayer time may be written. The book will be available until the time of the offering.

Time of Greeting – After worship this morning, we hope that you will take a few minutes after going outside the sanctuary to connect with others worshipping with you, especially people you may not know as well.

Hearing Assisted Devices – Speak with an usher if you would like to use these devices that work with or without a hearing aid. These devices are specifically designed to work only with our sound system. Please remember to return the device at the close of the service. Thank you!

Building Accessibility – Our building includes an exterior ramp on Newbury Street and an elevator (in the Parish House part of the building) which allows access to the fellowship hall, meeting rooms, offices, and other parts of the building. We also have accessible rest rooms. Please ask an usher to help you locate these resources.



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 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. Joshua Lawrence Lazard, *Lead Pastor (pro tem)*

Rev. Rob Mark, *Lead Pastor (on sabbatical)*

Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*

Bill Brown, *Building Manager*

Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator*

Nancy Stockford, *Parish Administrator/Financial Secretary*

Jesús Vargas, *Sexton*

Alan Lane, *Food Cupboard Coordinator*

Venkatesh Balasubramanian, *Digital Communications & Audio Visual Tech Manager*

CHURCH OFFICERS

Kathryn Barry, *President of the Corporation*

Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*

Jon Schwarz, *Moderator of the Board of Deacons*

Faith Perry, *Treasurer*