

# Church of the Covenant

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



**Pride Sunday**  
**June 9, 2024**



# Church of the Covenant

## Pride Sunday

June 9, 2024, 10:30 am [Zoom Link](#)

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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

*Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World*

adapted from Israel Kamakawiwo‘ole

### Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

### \* Call to Worship

*adapted from Rev. Kimi Floyd Reisch*

One: Each of us is created with worth, imbued with dignity.

Many: **We are the representation of God’s love in the world.**

One: We are diverse in our experiences, vast in our manifestation of how love looks.

Many: **Our families are all different, but each represents and honors the many ways that God’s people live and love.**

One: Our lives are enriched when LGBTQIA+SGL people are welcomed and affirmed in our churches and communities.

Many: **We all suffer when any queer person is oppressed, excluded, or shamed.**

One: When justice is denied to any of us, justice is denied to all of us.

Many: **Until we are all free, none of us are free.**

One: As we seek to follow the Liberating Christ, may we work to build a world where all people are affirmed with love.

Many: **Our sexual and gender diversity come as gifts from our Creator and bring joy in our lives. And in God’s name, we gather and go out to share these blessings with the world.**

### \* Kindling the Christ Light

One: The light of Christ

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

# \* Opening Hymn *For All the Children*

## For All the Children



1. God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
2. Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
4. God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the pro - mise of Your love.  
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
shame so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
wide, can live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will  
that they nev - er have a rea - son to doubt that they are  
May the mess - age now be ban - ished that Your love is for the  
As they grow in strength and sta - ture, may they join us hand in



be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
blest. May they, in Your love, find rest.  
few, may their faith in You re - new.  
hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry-one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

**Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace**      *by Rev. Sam Lundquist, written for LGBTQ  
Pride Month worship at St. John's Presbyterian Church  
in San Francisco, CA, 2023*

**Many:**      **God of wild love and extravagant acceptance, Spirit of  
boldness and beauty:**

**You are faithfully present in both the grit and glitter of life,  
and you are present here with us now.**

**Awaken us to your dream for creation:**

**A world in which every member of the human family is free  
to flourish however you have made them.**

**Forgive us for the moments we have held back  
your ever-flowing current of love, dignity, and justice.**

**Remake us into a people eager to see you  
in the faces, bodies, and expressions of all people.**

**Remind each of us to step out of the shadows of our lives  
and shine fearlessly and courageously.**

**Ignite the Divine Light within us to sparkle through the prism  
of our bodies and brighten every corner of this Earth.**

**Holy One, You call each of us beloved.**

**Each of us cherished.**

**Each of us desired.**

**Each of us sacred.**

**And so, we give you thanks now and forever.**

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

**Listening to God in Silent Prayer**

**Assurance of God's Grace**

**One:**      **We long for your truth that sets the captives free. Bring us your  
Word that liberates. Quiet all that turns us against ourselves, one  
another, or any of your creatures and creations. Lead us in love that  
mends and restores. Therefore, let us celebrate together:**

**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** – 1 Samuel 20:11-17

Jonathan replied to David, “Come, let us go out into the field.” So, they both went out into the field.

Jonathan said to David, “By the Lord, the God of Israel! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow or on the third day, if he is well disposed toward David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you? But if my father intends to do you harm, God do so to Jonathan and more also, if I do not disclose it to you and send you away, so that you may go in safety. May God be with you, as God has been with my father. If I am still alive, show me the faithful love of God, but if I die, never cut off your faithful love from my house, even if God were to cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.”

Thus, Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May God seek out the enemies of David.” Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own life.

**New Testament Reading** – Colossians 1:15-23 (*The Message* translation)

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—*everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he’s there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so expansive, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

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

## Sung Response

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

## Sermon

“Recovering Undercover Over-lover”

## Call to Offering

Online Giving Option: [www.cotcbos.org/give](http://www.cotcbos.org/give)  
*Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General.*

## Offertory

*True Colors*

adapted from Cyndi Lauper

## \* Doxology

Tune: *Old Hundredth*

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 & Concerns

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

## Pastoral Prayer

## \* Closing Hymn PH (blue) 376

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.



Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find the promised rest;  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**\* Charge and Benediction**

*adapted from Rev. Anna Golladay,  
"Queerness is not Criminalized by God," 2023*

**\* 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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## Worship Participants

**Preacher** – Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Liturgist** – Anne Crane

**Lector** – Anita Gram

**Usher** – Holly Humphreys

**Digital Minister** – Trudi Veldman

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

**Sexton** – Jesús Vargas

**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](http://cotcbos.org).



**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 16: Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard preaching, Holy Communion, Appreciation of CYCE Volunteers, All-Church Picnic
- Sunday, June 23: Rev. Kate Carlisle preaching
- Sunday, June 30: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching, Cold Drink Fellowship
- Sunday, July 7: ZOOM ONLY, Rev. Julie Avis Rogers preaching

**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](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org) if you want to receive updates!



**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.

**COLD DRINKS ON NEWBURY.** On **Sunday, June 30**, join us immediately after worship at the steeple entrance to celebrate the beginning of Open Newbury with cold drinks; hosted by the Membership Development Committee.

**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](mailto:joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org)).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://www.cotcbos.org) (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](https://www.cotcbos.org/worship-recordings) ([cotcbos.org/worship-recordings](https://www.cotcbos.org/worship-recordings)).

**WEEKLY CALENDAR.** Click [here](https://www.cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events) ([cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events](https://www.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](http://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](mailto: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](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 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*