



Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA

July 21, 2024

10:30 am

The Season of Pentecost/Ordinary Time

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/cotcworship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

* Call To Worship

* Opening Hymn NCH (black) 42

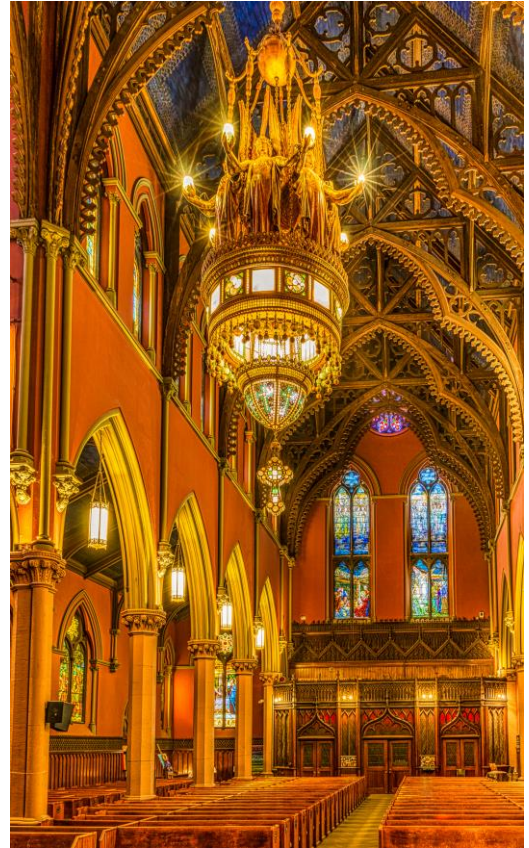
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing
the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Savior and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease
Is music in the sinner's ears,
is life, and health, and peace!

Glory to God, and love and praise
be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age,
the church in earth and heaven.



Lighting of the Christ Light

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

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

* Sung Response

Amen, Bawo

5 A-men, we praise your name, O God! A-men we praise your name, O God!

A-men, ba-wo. A-men, ba-wo. A-men, we praise your name, O God!

Scripture Readings

Hebrew Bible Reading – Psalm 37:1-7

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.
Trust in God and do good;
live in the land and enjoy security.
Take delight in God,
and God will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to God;
trust, and God will act.
God will make your vindication shine like the light
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
Be still before God, and wait patiently;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.

Gospel Reading – John 14:1-7a

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In the house of the One who Made Me, there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Teacher, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Almighty except through me. If you know me, you will know my Maker also.”

New Testament Reading – Acts 12:20-24

Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So, they came to him in a body, and after winning over Blastus, the king’s personal attendant, they asked for a reconciliation, because their country depended on the king’s country for food. On an appointed day, Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat on the platform, and delivered a public address to them. The people kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a mortal!” And immediately, because he had not given the glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.

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

Sung Response

Amen, Bawo

Sermon

Call to Offering

Offertory

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

* **Communion 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 & Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

Celebration of Holy Communion

* **Invitation**

* **Communion Hymn**

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.

All God's children gonna eat together
All God's children gonna eat together, some of these days.
All God's children gonna eat together
All God's children gonna eat together, some of these days.

* **The Great Thanksgiving**

One: May God be with you!

Many: And also with you.

One: People of Covenant, 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 Father and Mother, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors; and do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver
us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Post Communion Prayer

*** Closing Hymn** NCH (black) 23 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.

*** Charge & Benediction**

*** Exchange of the Peace:**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

~~~~~

**LIFE ALIVE BRUNCH TODAY!** Join the young adults group (20s-30s-40s) at brunch after worship today, **Sunday, July 21**. Let Rev. Joshua know if you are interested.

**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 welcome 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 SUNDAY WORSHIP.** Please join us each Sunday at 10:30 am as we come together in community to pray, sing, share celebrations and concerns, and hear God's still-speaking Word proclaimed in these hybrid (in-person and Zoom) services.

- July 21: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching, Holy Communion, Life Alive Brunch
- July 28: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching
- August 4: Rev. Julie Avis Rogers preaching, Holy Communion
- August 11: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching
- August 18: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching, Holy Communion, Life Alive Brunch
- August 25: Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching

*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 restrooms. 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*