

Church of the Covenant Boston, MA



Jubilee:
Roots in Rest

Jubilee Series (1 of 3)
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
[ZOOM LINK \(click here\)](#)



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jubilee Series 1st of 3

September 13, 2020 10:30 am

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlIpTTEvRGNZUT09>

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

Introduction to Today's Music

Prelude

Andante Sostenuto from Symphonie Gothique

C. M. Widor

Call To Worship

One: As we gather to hear the soundings of jubilee,

Many: **Quiet in us the chaos.**

One: As we hold in our hearts hopes for this world,

Many: **Stir in us compassion.**

One: As we look beyond ourselves for liberation,

Many: **May we find our rest in you.**

Lighting the Light of Christ

Opening Hymn:

O Day of Rest and Gladness

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light.

O balm for care and sadness, most beautifully bright.

On you, the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,

Sing "holy, holy, holy" to the great God triune.

On you, at earth's creation the light first had its birth.

On you, for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;

On you, our Lord victorious sent Spirit forth from heaven.

And thus on you, most glorious, a triple light was given.

On you, God's people, meeting, the Holy Scripture hear,
Christ's living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.
New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,
We reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace:

One: As people in need of rest. As people in need of renewal. As people in need of reconciliation. Let us now spend some shared moments together seeking in silence grounding in the promise of God's grace...

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

One: In the midst of the chaotic or the traumatic; in the midst of the exciting or the mundane – God comes to us as a still, small voice. A small but powerful voice that resounds like the trumpets of jubilee with the good news of liberation:

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

Sung Response:

Song of Hope / Canto de esperanza

May the God of hope go with us everyday,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
Singing, share our joy with all;
Working, for a world that's new;
Faithful, when we hear Christ's call.

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God had finished all the work of creation, and so, on that seventh day, God rested. God blessed the seventh day and called it sacred, because on it God rested from all the work of creation.

Exodus 20:8-11

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Holy One your

God; you shall not do any work—you, your children, your workers, your livestock, or the resident alien sojourner who lives among you. For in six days God made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Holy One blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Leviticus 25: 1-5, 8-12

God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying: Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a sabbath for God. For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for God...it shall be a year of complete rest for the land...

You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the day of atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants...That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you...it shall be holy to you...

Isaiah 58:13–14

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, and doing business on the holy day, if you call the Sabbath delightful and the day sacred to God honorable, if you honor it by no pursuing your own ways, seeking your own pleasure, or speaking your serving your own interests, then you will find your delight in God, and I will lead you triumphant over the heights of the land. I will feed you on the heritage of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, your ancestors! The mouth of God has spoken.

Sermon

Jubilee: Roots in Rest

Call to Offering

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

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

Offertory

Imagine

John Lennon

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

Closing Hymn: Sing the Faith, #2128

Come and Find the Quiet Center

1. Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.
2. Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.
3. In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare.

Charge & 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.**

Participating in Today's Worship

Preacher – Rev. Rob Mark

Liturgist – Barbara Darling

Lector – Kiersten Tate

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Special Thanks – Our choir!

Cantor – Tom Reid

PEACE BE WITH YOU IN THESE DAYS: We are delighted to welcome you to our community of faith! As we all do our part to love our neighbor as ourselves to help “flatten the curve” of the coronavirus/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.

The announcements that follow reflect the ongoing abundant life that is Church of the Covenant:

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.

- Sundays, September 13-27 Special Sermon Series on the scriptural roots of Jubilee, Rev. Rob preaching:
 - September 13 **Jubilee: Roots in Rest:** Genesis, Exodus and Isaiah
 - September 20 **Jubilee: Soil of Solidarity:** Leviticus 25 / Communion
 - September 27 **Jubilee: Branches to Blessing:** Luke 4
- Sundays, October 4-18 Special Sermon Series on Climate Jubilee:
 - October 4 World Communion Sunday & Special Offering
 - October 11 Blessing of the Animals Service
 - October 18 Communion

Upcoming Sunday Adult Eds following worship:

- *Sept. 20 – Climate Jubilee team introduces us to the local work of GreenRoots.*
- *Oct. 4 – Climate Jubilee Team helps us focus on voting with creation in mind this fall*
- *Oct. 11 – presentation and congregational meeting on the columbarium proposal at COTC*

Here are the Zoom details for Sundays:

join by computer/ tablet/ smartphone:

<https://zoom.us/j/91025989890?pwd=VTd0L3VMc3ErRDBRTlplTTEvRGNZUT09>

one tap mobile: +16465588656,,91025989890#,,#,892502#

join by phone: +1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 910 2598 9890, Password: 892502

Some suggestions to aid in your worship for you to consider:

1. Printing the bulletin out in advance so you have it during worship
2. Pulling the bulletin up on a second device/phone/screen
3. Pulling both the bulletin up and Zoom, and switch between them as needed.
The liturgy, songs, and scripture are the important times to have this bulletin visible if possible.
4. And if none of these options work for you, no worries—just following the link will be fine – you will be able to worship fully.

WEDS EVENING PRAYERS (in person): Sept 23 and 30 – [RSVP](#)

GREEN TEAM SUMMIT “A JUST RECOVERY”: September 13-17. Join the Presbyterians for Earth Care in their partnership with Faith in Place for this free virtual climate justice related summit. Rev. Otis Moss III will be among the keynoters, 5pm Sunday 9/13. RSVP here (<https://www.greenteamsummit.org/register>).

BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS: We gather on Zoom at 10:00am for about an hour for a “BYOB” (bring your own Bible) gathering. Currently, we are taking a look at the Book of Psalms, which runs the gamut of human emotion. Drop in any week!

join by computer/ tablet/ smartphone:

<https://zoom.us/j/104478666?pwd=MHAWdEY5VVNvdVEkbVA1R2U3Z3NnUT09>

one tap mobile: +16465588656,,104478666#,,#,581626#

join by phone: (646) 558 8656, Meeting ID: 104 478 666, Password: 581626

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.

20s-30s-40s GROUP AT COVENANT: We have an active young adult group that meets regularly to create community, even while we can't be together physically. Join us on Monday evenings at 7:30 PM for a weekly time to pray and connect via conference call at (712) 432-0220, access code 2667480#. If you'd like to be added to our email list, contact one of our group leaders: Kathryn Barry, Melissa Morgan, or Tom Reid, at youngadults@cotcbos.org

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.



"To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice." — Proverbs 21:3



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 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*

Hillary Gabbidon, *Parish Administrator*

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*

Nancy Stockford, *Financial Secretary*