

Hadwen Park Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

6 Clover Street, Worcester MA 01603
www.hadwenparkchurch.org

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021



This service includes Holy Communion.

Please prepare elements - such as juice and bread - to be ready to participate.

If you would like to communicate with any of today's worship leaders, you may email them directly.

*Please speak or sing the parts written in **bold italics**.*

PRELUDE: "Reflection Rag" *Minister of Music Brett Maguire, brettwmaguire@gmail.com*

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Associate Pastor Sarah Sund-Lussier, pastorsarahhpc@gmail.com*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Susan Crimer, sfcramer@gmail.com*

WELCOME STATEMENT *Al Green, LGBT Task Force Ministry Director, agreen@outlook.com*

OPENING HYMN: "Help Us Accept Each Other" *Brett Maguire*

***Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe:
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.***

***Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may become.***

***Let your acceptance change us so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.***

***Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!***

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 JOHN 4:7-21 *Rick Howarth, rhowarth71@charter.net*

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an

atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

UNISON PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Sarah

O God, giver of life:

We confess the times when we fail to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

God, forgive us when we ignore or we fail to see our neighbors in need.

Abiding God, also forgive us when we reject love from others, and shut down completely.

***We confess the times when we did not tend to our own needs,
and denied ourselves of your forgiveness and grace.***

In our failures, we have refused your invitation to grow closer to you.

***In our confession, O God, we pray your abiding love be shown
through the ways we love more fully. Amen.***

ANTHEM: "Crowded Table"

Billye & Kara Auclair, bauclair27@gmail.com

GOSPEL LESSON: John 15:1-8

Gail Sund-Lussier, gsundlussier@gmail.com

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

SERMON: "The Way of Love"

Pastor Sarah

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Sarah

OFFERING

Pastor Sarah

**Please make checks payable and mail to Hadwen Park Church,
6 Clover Street, Worcester, MA 01603
Or donate online by PayPal or credit card.
(Go to: www.hadwenparkchurch.org, click DONATE button at top right.)**

Date	Offering	Weekly Need	Offering vs. Weekly Need	YTD Offering vs. YTD Need
3/28/21	\$2,780	\$3,704	(\$924)	\$5,974
4/4/21	\$1,965	\$3,704	(\$1,739)	\$4,235
4/11/21	\$6,415	\$3,704	\$2,711	\$6,946
4/18/21	\$1,620	\$3,704	(\$2,084)	\$4,862
4/25/21	\$3,425	\$3,704	(\$279)	\$4,583
Where we are vs. our 2021 Full-Year Pledge Commitment --->				\$4,583

OFFERORY ANTHEM: "I Will Rejoice"

Randy & Carol Roy, sweetcaroline329@hotmail.com

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE: "Give Thanks"

Brett Maguire

**Give thanks, with a grateful heart, give thanks to the holy one.
Give thanks, because God's given Jesus Christ the son.
And, now, let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks.**

COMMUNION ANTHEM: "The Table" by Chris Tomlin

Pastor Sarah

COMMUNION

Pastor Sarah

UNISON PRAYER

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.
We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life.
We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts.
We are now commissioned to:
feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
love as we have been loved.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Brett Maguire

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again. Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again. Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again. Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Brett Maguire

**One in love, one in friendship true, one in hope, one in spirit, too;
One in faith that God will care for you, 'til we meet together again.**

POSTLUDE: "This Little Light of Mine"

Pastor Judy & Singers from HPC

*If you have photos of the Light shining at/through HPC over the years, please send them to
Ed O'Donnell or Cindy Young (eodonnell@holycross.edu or cynwilyou@gmail.com)
Watch each week for images of faithfulness by folks at the corner of Clover and Knox.*

Please join our virtual coffee hour at 11 a.m.

We will be able to see each other's beautiful face! See instructions on original email or contact pastorsarahhpc@gmail.com.

HPC Video Worship / Social Media Team:

The Rev. Judith Hanlon, The Rev. Sarah Sund-Lussier, Brett Maguire, Edward O'Donnell,
Alford Green, Cynthia Young

Music Licensing:

CCLI License #1596232

Schedule for the Week of May 2-8, 2021

(Consult HPC website for details and instructions.)

www.hadwenparkchurch.org

Send email to person in charge to learn how to access these virtual and in-person events.

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School on Zoom, grades K-5	pastorsarahhpc@gmail.com
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Morning Worship on YouTube	www.hadwenparkchurch.org
Sunday	10:45 a.m.	Sunday School on Zoom, ages 2-5	sfcrimer@gmail.com
Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour on Zoom	pastorsarahhpc@gmail.com
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study Care Group	gracelift@aol.com
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open at church (thru 2 p.m.)	rutland385@earthlink.net
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Exercise on Zoom with AI (thru 11 a.m.)	agreen@outlook.com

Hadwen Park Congregational Church Staff

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- **Al Green**, Ministry Director, LGBT Task Force - 508.371.0463, agreen@outlook.com
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