

# Hadwen Park Congregational Church

www.hadwenparkchurch.org

October 31, 2021 10am

*\*stand if you are able*

**PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES and electronic devices.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

*Bob Murray, murray395@gmail.com*

## WELCOME

### \*GATHERING HYMN

*“Gather Us In”*

**Here in this place, the new light is streaming,  
shadows of doubt are vanished away  
See, in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken  
Gather us in, our spirits aflame  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken  
We shall arise at the sound of our name**

**We are the young—our lives are a mystery  
We are the old, who yearn for your face  
We have been sung throughout all of history  
Called to be light to the whole human race  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly  
Give us the courage to enter the song**

**Not just in buildings, small and confining  
Not in some heaven, light years away  
But, here in this place, the new light is shining  
Now is God present and now is the day  
Gather us in, and hold us forever  
Gather us in and make us your own  
Gather us in, all peoples together  
Fire of the love in our flesh and our bone**

## HEBREW READING

*Ruth 1: 1-18*

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of

his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered the people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!  
**Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people, and your God my God.  
Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried.  
May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!”**

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. Leader: A Hebrew Story for the Christian People. **AMEN**

## ANTHEM

### PRAYER of CONFESSION

**We come before you, Saving God, stripped of our pretensions and pride, for nothing we do or say, or do not, can be hidden from you. You hear the angry words we preach to ourselves; you sift through the rubble of hurts we have caused; you see how we stumble, weighed down by all that ‘stuff’ which keeps us from following Jesus. As you empty our hands of the wealth of unneeded things; as we let go of all which might hold us back, give us the trust and understanding that richness is found by choosing peace, mercy, hope, justice and compassion.**  
*Silent reflection*

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*(stay seated)*

*“ Open My Eyes”*

Open my eyes that I may see, glimpses of truth you have for me  
Place in my hands the wonderful key that will unclasp and set me free  
Silently now, I wait for thee, Ready my God, your will to see  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine

you, until we meet together again.”

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

**Please join us downstairs for coffee and fellowship**

GOSPEL LESSON

*Mark 12: 28-34*

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘God is one, and besides God there is no other’; and ‘to love God with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “**You are not far from the kin-dom of God.**” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*“How Far Are We From the Kin-dom”*

\*HYMN of the DAY

*“Take My Gifts”*

#562

PRAYER REQUESTS, PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

**“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 me. Give thanks!**

\*PARTING HYMN

*“Lead On Eternal Sovereign”*

#573”

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION **“One in love, one in friendship true,  
one in hope, one in spirit too, one in faith that God will care for**