COME LORD JESUS!

ANNOUNCEMENTS and WELCOME

CHORAL CALL to ADVENT

“Advent Gathering”

Choir: Here in this world where darkness surrounds us
Congregation: Show us your face, O Promise of Dawn
Choir: We seek a sign that you are among us
Congregation: Show us you face, O Lord Jesus Come

Congregation and Choir:
Come, O hope of your people. Come among us and stay
Lead us in mercy, up from the shadows, Shine in our darkness, be here today

Choir: Where is the peace you promised the widow
Congregation: Show us your face, O Promise of Dawn
Choir: Where is the home you promised the orphan
Congregation: Show us your face, O Promise of Dawn

Congregation and Choir
Come, O hope of your people. Come among us and stay
Lead us in mercy, up from the shadows, Shine in our darkness, be here today

Choir: Where is the road you promised the exile?
Congregation: Show us your face, O promise of Dawn
Choir: Where is the good news preached to the lowly
Congregation: Show us your face, O Promise of Dawn

Congregation and Choir
Come, O hope of your people. Come among us and stay
Lead us in mercy, up from the shadows, Shine in our darkness, be here today

Choir: Where is the heart whose “yes” is salvation
Congregation: Show us your face, O Promise of Dawn
Choir: Where is the child whose life is our future
Congregation: Show us your face, O Promise of Dawn

Congregation and Choir

CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY

“The Candle of Joy”

Bob Murray and Marylynn Saul, Partners for Life

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, may the splendor of your glory dawn in our hearts, that all shadows of the night may be scattered and we may be shown to be your joyful children of light by the advent of your Only Begotten Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES 1-3

LEADER: Why do we light the Advent candles?
PEOPLE: To remember this truth: Jesus is the Word through whom all things were made. In him is life and his life is the light of all people. If we receive his light, our joy is made complete.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we have neglected Advent disciplines.
We’ve crowded them out with Christmas celebrations that arrive too early and with our anxieties, selfishness and lack of trust. Because of this, we have forgotten you and we are joyless. We are lost, in need of your help.
Renew our joy. Amen

*ASCRITION of PRAISE

“Gloria, in excelsis Deo”

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

See insert for the liturgy

HYMN

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant” #539

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 12: 2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name; make known God’s deeds among the nations; proclaim the exalted name. Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your
midst is the Holy One of Israel.
The Hebrew Scripture for the Christian People. **AMEN**!

**ANTHEM**

Hadwen Park Choir

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**GOSPEL LESSON**

*Leader: The gospel of Christ for the People of Christ. **AMEN**

**Luke 3: 7-18**

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**SERMON**

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**HYMN of the DAY**

*“With Joy Draw Water” #109

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**PRAYER REQUESTS, PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD’S PRAYER**

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**OFFERING and OFFERTORY**

**Holiday needs:** Gift Cards, Benevolence, Toys for Kids

Write checks to HPC and write the fund to which you wish to contribute in the memo line

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**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 us. Give thanks.”

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**NEW MEMBER LITURGY**

**Pastor:** By your baptism, you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us confess our faith in the triune God. Will both old and new members respond as printed in the bulletin?

I believe in God, in Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit and in you and in me.
I believe the Holy Spirit has freed us to worship as a community of faith.
I believe the Holy Spirit works through:
Faith and doubt….words and listening
Holding on and letting go….spontaneity and planning
Touching and praying….tears and laughter
Accepting and caring….Scriptures and Alleluias,
Clanging cymbals and silence….applauding and giving
The expected and the unexpected….choirs and banners
Daisies and wiggly children….balloons and ministers,
Agonizing and celebrating
Through you and through me, through love.
I believe God’s Holy Spirit lives
in this community of caring, grace-filled people.
I believe in Praising God for life.
I believe in responding to God’s grace and love and justice for all people
I believe in dreams and visions
I believe in the presence of God with in us.

**Pastor:** This question now, is to the membership candidates.

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**POSTLUDE**

*Brett Maguire, Minister of Music*
Do you wish to become a part of Christ’s church here at Hadwen Park Congregational Church, UCC, acknowledging full rites and privileges and full responsibilities of time, talent and financial support.

If so, answer we do.

Congregation’s Covenant: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

NEW MEMBERS

Angelina Ayouk, 245 Boston Post Road, Marlboro, Mass, 01752
ayomakuol91@gmail.com, 585.354.0254
Angelina is the proud mother of four children, Nyarik, Ayom, Majok, and Adhel. She works at Wegman's in Northboro. One day when I was living in our apartment in Quinsigamond Village, we got a knock on the door. It was Angelina was looking for a Worcester apartment. Since the one we were staying in had been on the internet, she read an old ad that said it was for rent. Glenn opened the door and Angelina began to talk about looking for a place to live and Glenn said, “Let me get my wife.” From then on, Angelina and her children have been a part of HPC. She is still looking for an apartment……HELP?

Linford Black, 42 Abbot Street, Apt 2, Worcester, 01602
linfordblack@gmail.com, 876.865.0237
Linford is from Jamaica and seeking asylum with the Task Force. Linford has gone to church his whole life. Yet, when pastors spoke against the LGBT community, Linford did not internalize that. He has always believed that he was fearfully and wonderfully made by God. A man of strong faith!

Christine Ofwono, 8 Clover Street, Worcester, 01603
ofwonot@yahoo.co.uk, 774.386.7923
Christine is seeking asylum from Uganda. She has been a strong Christian in the Anglican denomination. She immediately joined the HPC choir upon arrival. Christine was a social worker back in Uganda and created an organization called “Uganda Strong” that included an orphanage for the children of lesbian women who were living in hiding. When she left Uganda the orphanage was left with no money and no food. Recently, a few friends of HPC helped her purchase candle making equipment that the orphanage might be self sustaining. Since people in Uganda use candles for lighting, selling candles presumes constant revenues. Please ask her to see the pictures!

Linda Lambrecht, 151 Burlingame Road, Charlton, Mass, 01507
Lamfam151@gmail.com, 774.402.0218
Linda comes to us from the Charlton area as do many of our new people. She doesn’t seem NEW, because she immediately became a member of the HPC choir, until Covid drove us all underground. Linda also sings with the Wings of Song. That is the group that allowed us to use their recorded music in our recorded Covid Services. Linda retired in 2015 from UMass where she managed an immunology research lab.

David Ocharo 43 Abbott Street, Apt 2, Worcester, Mass 01602
Davidochar@gmail.com, 774.899.8713
David was a pastor in Kenya until he had to leave to save his life. David is very interested in how politics and religion intersect and plans to study further. He is even considering Seminary. David is also someone who didn’t believe the religious abuse that he heard in Kenya. He has always believed that he was a child of God created to be gay.

Stacey Ann Patterson, 30 Drexel Street, Worcester, 01609
stcynnpatterson@hotmail.com, 570.801.1382
Stacey is a strong Christian woman who loves music. She is seeking asylum and hails from Jamaica. Stacey is a twin. Upon arrival she immediately joined the choir and is learning, as she says, how to keep the sounds LOOOOONG, not quick and bouncy like the Jamaican rhythm. She has a daughter, Dakota, who is her pride and joy. Stacey brings Dakota to church every Sunday to learn more about God. It is Stacey’s deep desire that Dakota has all the opportunities that Stacey herself did not have as a child.

Nancy Smith, 54 Prindle Hill Road, Charlton, 01507
Nancy and her husband Brad live on Prindle Pond in Charlton and love the land. They have two children. Nancy also came to us via the choir and an invitation from Cindy Young. Nancy also sings alto in the "Wings of Song." She says that she wants to give HPC her "all" and do whatever she can to help others. As she put it, "My husband and I reach out to people in need…that's what we do!"

Please send an email, make a phone call or find them at coffee hour and introduce yourself.

Take this flyer home and make a point of getting to know our new members and/or sending them a welcoming card.