

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL

440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii

Holy Cross Sunday - June 10, 2012

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship – Psalm 119:1-8

Leader: Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart.

People: May we do nothing wrong; as we walk in way of Christ Jesus. You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. Oh, that our ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!

Leader: We will praise you with an upright heart as we learn your righteous mercy with justice. How can women or men keep their way pure? By living according to your word!

All: We seek you with our whole hearts; do not let us wander from your commands. We will hide Your sacred word in our hearts so that we might not sin against you or our neighbors. Praise be to you, O LORD; teach us your grace – let Your Holy Spirit bind us in love. Amen.

Invocation: Gracious God, come with the bright light of justice, and the still calm wind of peace. Holy Creator, fill us with your Spirit so we may take pleasure in Your presence among us. Let us never forget to trust our lives to the guiding integrity of your Son. Challenge us to act with faithful mercy as your disciples so we will exemplify your teachings. Open our eyes, so we may see the wonderful truths in your embrace for all who are in need. Our hearts ache with longing as we want to know how to heal this world with Your courageous forgiveness at all times. Let your instructions give us pleasure and set the road map for our lives. Amen.

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

The Prayers:

Call to Confession: Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider our sighing. Listen to our cries for help, our King and our God, for to you we pray for mercy.

Confession (in unison): O LORD, you hear our voices; we lay our every day experiences before you. You take no pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You. The arrogant cannot stand before Your eyes; You hate all who exploit iniquity. You trip-up and tongue-tie those who speak falsehood. You, Lord, abhor the person who destroys with anger and deceit. But as for us, examine

our every action and by Your abundant loving kindness we will bow in reverence. O Lord, lead us in truthfulness and make Your way clear before each person here that we may show mercy, justice, and forgiveness – as You have forgiven us in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Let all who take refuge in God's compassion be glad, Let them sing for joy; for it is Our Lord who blesses the righteous person, surrounding such women and men of mercy with favor as with a shield. Amen

(Psalm 5:11-12)

Invitation to the Offering: I am filled with love when God, the Holy One, is both humble in majesty and grace to hear us and invites us to offer ourselves in service. Amen

Prayer of Dedication: Lord, our everlasting God, we pray for our family and neighbors both near and far. May Your Holy Spirit grant us peace and generous abundant kindness? May our family include all people who love justice and mercy, and bring peace and reconciliation to all who are estranged and lost. Because of your presence with us we know everything is all right. Your love touches the center of our every action and enables us to share in blessing people through churches around the world. Lead us today and every day to do what is right, fair, merciful, kind, and loving, In Jesus' name. Amen