

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
June 24, 2012

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Call to Worship**

God glories in Creation. How clearly the magnificent sky reveals God's glory! How plainly the heavens encompass the conditions and changing seasons of our lives!

**Each day announces it to the following day; each night repeats it to the next. No speech or words are used, no sound is heard; yet the message goes out to the entire world and is heard to the ends of the earth. One day is renewed by another!**

The wind blows where it will. The glorious sun rises in the morning like a happy bridegroom embracing the expectation of human hearts. It runs like an athlete eager to race on to the playing fields of our lives. Nothing is hid from its warmth. The law of the LORD is perfected in humility and wondrous grace; it gives new strength and nourishes our growth.

**The commands of the Lord's love are trustworthy, giving wisdom and guidance to those who lack it. The laws of the Lord are right, and those who obey them are happy and set their heart on following the path of Jesus. Amen.**

**Invocation:** LORD, come and walk with us. Grant us open minds for wisdom and understanding. Grant us open arms to embrace the challenges of your blessings in the days of our lives. May our actions announce reverence for Your goodness? May our judgments reflect Your justice and fairness. Your love, O Lord, is more desirable than the finest gold and sweeter than the purest honey. Your pathway guides our desire for knowledge as we join You in service and compassion. We are rewarded with blessings when we honor your forgiveness and share your grace with the people we meet. Then we find freedom from the evil of sin. In our worship this day may our words and our thoughts be acceptable to You. O LORD Jesus, bless us with the abundance of Your Holy Spirit. Amen

**WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Scripture:** (Mark 4:35-41 NRSV) On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' {36}And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. {37}A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. {38}But he was in the stern, asleep

on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' {39}He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. {40}He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' {41}And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

**Sermon:** "Together: In The Same Boat! Why are You Afraid? Peace Be Still!"

## **WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED**

**Call to Confession:** "None of us can see our own errors; deliver us, LORD, from hidden faults! Keep us safe from willful sins; don't let them rule over us. Then we shall find perfection and freedom for our spirit – day in and day out!"

**Confession:** God, probe the dark corners of my doubts. Clear my slate of any frustration and confusion. Help me to welcome You into the hidden chambers of my soul. See us for who we really are, and guide us to become our best as an expression of Your love. Look at the broken moments of our fears. Enable us to heal the wounds of the past. May our commitment to love You and all people, be filled with generous forgiveness. Empower our faithfulness with integrity. Steer our journey on difficult roads so we genuinely honor each person every day. Sign us up as ambassadors of peace and justice in whatever we are doing, now and forever. Through Jesus and Your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:** "The reveling mercy of God pulls our lives together and points us on the roadway of service. God has set before us the life-map of joy with full forgiveness." Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering:** "God claims the earth and everything in it, the world and every creature that lives on it, the sea that rages and the mill pond stillness of dawn. God has blessed us with the gift of life. Like cool water, God refreshes our thirst for compassion. Now, God waits for us to bless the world with overflowing faithfulness to Jesus Christ."

**Prayer of Dedication:** Creator God and Holy Spirit of truthfulness, guide our Church of the Holy Cross to new paths of service in mission and ministry. We give thanks for Vacation Bible School this past week. Come and continue to help us to grow with transforming faith as a congregation. May we truly meet the needs of people here in Hilo, in Hawaii, and around the world? May we invite people to embrace Your Son's joy? We offer ourselves as your ambassadors in service. We commit ourselves to trust the abundant fullness of Your blessings through Jesus Christ. Amen