

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
Independence Day Sunday
Combined Service with
Samoan and Pohnpeian Congregations

July 1, 2012
COMMUNION SUNDAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship: Statement of faith of the United Church of Christ

We believe in you, O God. Eternal Spirit. God our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Invocation: Creator God join us in our celebration of integrity with mercy. We come this day honoring the birth of nations who seek the open participation of all their people in the cause of compassion and justice. We remember our long history and we see the challenges of our destiny as people who claim freedom. Yet, we sadly remember struggles through weakness when we failed to embrace the ideal that all people are created equal with inalienable rights to human dignity. We open our hearts and minds this day to Your sacred presence among us, Lord, we pledge ourselves to welcome all people, and to embrace the whole of creation with Your sustaining love. Guide us to

restore the broken ways of the past and to declare our consecrated commitment to mercy, peace, forgiveness, and justice in the name of Jesus, grant us Your Holy Spirit. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: (Mark 5:21-43 NRSV)

Sermon: “Have No Fear, Only Believe!”

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: God, your reputation is flowing with kindness taught by the hand experience. Forgive our weakness in life. Forgive our failures and our pride. Renew each person here in the center of our souls.

Confession: O Lord, Grant us faith that tries over and over again to face the truth of things unseen: those emotions, those memories,.. those achievements,.. those disappointments,.. those loves,.. those hopes which permeate our souls. Let us not fall into the arrogance of pride or even an assurance that we can own the resources of this world. Rather guide us to share our skills as servants who patiently care for each and every human condition. Forgive us in ways that teach us to forgive others – by entering the humble blessings of your mercy and compassion through Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit of truthfulness. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: God is fair and just; correcting the misdirected and sending us in the right direction – leading us step by step to become people of mercy. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering: May Your grace, Lord, make possible that which seems impossible, so that no one here is afraid to embrace your generous invitation calling us to mission and service in Christ’s name.

Prayer of Dedication: Glorious Lord, You have given us each a life time so our deeds and our generosity may bless others as you have blessed us – How marvelously wonderful it is that You announce we are Your’s in each and every thing that we do through Jesus Christ. Bless all nations of this earth. Now, let our work, our gifts, and our breathing lives serve the needs of Your Holy Spirit here at home and around the world to bring glory and honor to Your name. Amen