

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

July 15, 2012

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we pray for all the faithful across all generations. For we have heard of their faith in Christ Jesus and of their love for God's people and all creation.

We always give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for the world. We celebrate other nations and people who live by grace in Christ Jesus with love for all God's people.

When the Good News first came to us we heard about the hope it offers. Our faith and love multiplied and has been based on what we hope for, which is kept safe for us in God's kingdom both in heaven and on earth.

Praying for one another, we ask God to fill each person with the knowledge of Christ's sacred love that overflows with wisdom and understanding through the Holy Spirit.

Glory and honor to God, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ – Peace and grace for the whole of creation. Amen.

Invocation: Lord Jesus, come and be with us every day. You are the visible likeness of the invisible God. We seek to serve with you in humble joy and praise. Through You, God created everything with blessing in heaven and on earth. We welcome Your presence at work in all things both seen and the unseen, including spiritual powers, events, rulers, authorities, and especially in the center of our lives. Our God, come to us as healing mercy, creating within us wholeness that gives glory and honor through Your Holy Spirit! We hail Jesus is the head of every church. Christ, we welcome You as the guiding source of our life in this congregation. Through your presence here at the Church of the Holy Cross we celebrate God's joyous work to restore the whole universe through peace and justice. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: (Mark 6:14-29 NRSV)

Sermon: "Speak Truth through Power"

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: At one time you were far away from God and were his enemies because of the evil things you did and thought. But now, by means of the physical death of his Son, God has made you his friends, in order to bring you, holy, pure, and faultless, into his presence (Colossians 1:21-22).

Confession: O God, You made peace through Your Son's blood on the cross and so restored all things to unity with mercy and compassion, both on earth and in heaven. We seek to continue to be faithful on a firm and sure foundation, and pray that we not allow ourselves to be shaken from the hope we gained when you heard the gospel. Grant that we might be transformed as faithful servants by the grace of Christ's forgiveness and overcome any errors, mistakes, or hateful deeds and thoughts. May our forgiveness of others bring glory and honor to your Holy name by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: "Christ is in you, which means that you will share in the glory of God. You will be able to live as the Lord wants and will do what pleases him. Your lives will produce all kinds of good deeds, and you will grow in your knowledge of God." Amen.

Invitation to the Offering: Lord, grant that we may believe in our hearts, declare with our mouths, and prove by our deeds how your spiritual grace invites us to embrace the world with your generous mercy.

Prayer of Dedication: Receive these gifts which we bring to build up the ministry and mission of Your church. Call from among us servants who so love you that they will give of themselves to bless others throughout the activities of this week. Receive us as your own, empower us to welcome every child of God, every human person, as we would welcome your son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen