

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

July 22, 2012

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship

Come, gather from across our community, and listen to God's love; the Lord will promise peace to his people. However, we must not take this for granted and act with foolish hearts.

Surely God's salvation is at work in those who stand in awe before the events of life, in the storms and in the wars, and in the accidental occurrences. Let us take note that we do not understand everything, and God is gracious in mercy and compassion.

God's glory dwells with the people. Love and faithfulness greet everyone. We find stewardship in service and care for each other and our environment.

May our faithfulness spring to life in us and our community from the far reaches of creation – across the universe of wisdom and prayer as we follow the teaching of Christ in our commitments and our relationships.

The Lord blesses us with goodness in all circumstance. Compassion goes before Jesus' mercy and prepares in us the example we seek to follow. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Invocation: Come now incarnate God; find a home here among us in the middle of our activities so that we encounter Jesus as our example and teacher. Guide our minds and tongues with words of gentle integrity even in times of stress and uncertainty. Pour courage into our capacity to face the challenges of the world around us in the weeks ahead. Bless all people who are traveling, those who are returning to school, and those whose health needs your healing touch. As we turn to the Bible for words of guidance, help us to celebrate your glory in our worship together. Nurture Your Holy Spirit's capacity within us to embrace patience, kindness, openness of heart, and truth with love for everyone we will meet. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: (Mark 6:30-44 NRSV)

Sermon: "Holy Leisure"

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this generation, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of our contemporary society is only foolishness with God.

Confession: Fill us with the strength of Your Holy Spirit, Lord. May we humbly find forgiveness as we confess our mistakes and errors in all that we have both done and left undone. Spare future generations the burden of having to heal the wounds and neglect we might inflict on history and our environment. We confess our desire to be honest and loving in our relationships. Challenge us to end violence and so we may work for peace in the holy and sacred space given to us in this world. We pray in Jesus' name to enter the realm of salvation both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: The God of creation shows favor to this earth and all dwell upon it. O Lord, you restore the destiny of faithful servants. You forgive the iniquity of your people's foolish and sinful ways. You call us to set aside all our wrath and turn from attitudes of ferocious anger. You are the source of mercy. In You, Lord Jesus, we find our peace. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering: No one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God, we have received this Spirit by grace, so that we might understand the gifts bestowed upon us by God – and bless others as we have been blessed.

Prayer of Dedication: Holy God, thought of you fills our minds; love of you fills our hearts; we desire to be rise up with a healing spirit of service as we offer ourselves so that each one of us becomes a living example of Your Son's teaching at work in us. Send us as servant disciples to model the grace of Christ in our relationships at home, at work, across our community and our state, and ultimately to bless the world with your empowering grace. Amen