

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

July 29, 2012

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship:

We come to God this day, the One who names each of us as a beloved child.

Here in these moments together, we would recognize God dwelling in us.

We come to Christ this day, the One whose love is the bedrock of our lives.

Here in this place of glory and grace, we would understand the One who calls us to faith.

We come to the Spirit this day, the One who would calm our fears with peace and hope.

Here with those who are our sisters and brothers, we would see beyond our limitations and doubts to what God can do in us and through us in Hilo and the world.

Invocation:

In the mist languishing over a lake,
in the shadows crawling across the lawn;
in the boisterous teenagers cannon-balling into the pool,
in the sweet breath of a baby cooling our cheeks;
in the familiar stories of grandparents around the dinner table,
in the giggling of children sharing a secret;
in our rising to new life each morning,
in the comforting arms of sleep;
in the healing taste of Christ's brokenness,
in the Cup's tart tang of grace;
in all these, and so many more, we are blessed with the richness of your glory in
our lives, and offer our thanks and worship to you,
God in Community, Holy in One, Embodiment of Love within us. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: (Ephesians 3:14-21 NRSV)

Sermon: "You Got It!"

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: We learn to worship God when our pride is shattered. In the moment of deepest despair the heart is ready to receive the attention God offers with love. (Psalm 51:17)

Confession: God, when we have forgotten your grace – fill us with more ability to bless others than we could expect. When we have said the wrong thing, open us up with prayers of hope and encouragement. When we drop the ball of responsibility – help us to catch your vision of unconditional acceptance. Take what we have, and sharpen our love of Christ so it flows through us to heal a wounded world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Lord, you delight in the repair of human lives. As you mend us with grace and forgiveness – enable us to do the same for others in the love of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering: There is nothing that we touch that has not been blessed by God's grace. Can you see how he has shown each one of us, we have the ability to provide help even when we think we have emptied our blessings – for if we reach deeper we will scatter joy and widen the horizon of our love.

Prayer of Dedication: I know you have given me these people to pray with, God. So my words are shaped by appreciation for the blessing each one brings to your presence. Everyone we meet has received the secret grace of God with every breath we take. May our lives be made worthy of the abundant compassion you have placed in our care. Let us make our selves holy and acceptable to Gof in Christ our Lord. Amen