

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
August 5, 2012
COMMUNION – Beginning of Church School

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
The sacred love of the Holy One endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
Yes, let everyone who has been rescued from trouble praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, we gather together from every street and neighborhood of our community. Some of us might have gotten lost along the way, and some of us have been hungry and thirsty, and at times our souls felt weak – but we have come to worship.

Praise the LORD; because from your difficulties you have sought God's grace, you are ready to be free from any distress. You have turned to the path of faith, the straightway, and seek to live by God's guidance.

Let all creation praise the name of the LORD; let us thank God for the grace of nourishing love, for the skill and talent with which God has blessed all humanity. God satisfies our thirst and fills our hunger with good things. As we seek compassionate wisdom let us always consider the love of the Lord made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Adapted from Psalm 107:1-9 & 43)

Invocation: Come gracious and ever present God. I know that you are with us even when we cannot see you, or even when I close my heart and eyes to your kindness. We know you travel great distances caring for the needs of this world and all people. You are like the universe, reaching far beyond and above us, yet your transcending love shines the light of hope with love and forgiveness into even the darkest corners of our fear or anxiety. We look to see your face blessing our families and our friends as you have already joined us in our relationships. You remind us all we have to do is embrace the love of your presence in Jesus Christ right here, by the power of your Holy Spirit, and for this we welcome you with thanksgiving today, and for the future. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: (John 6:24-35 NRSV): So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. {25} When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ {26} Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. {27} Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ {28} Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ {29} Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’ {30} So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?’ {31} Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” ’ {32} Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. {33} For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ {34} They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ {35} Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’

Sermon: “Bread of Life”

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: If anyone feels estranged with a mind caught in conflict and feels they might make the wrong choice, know that you can be reconciled in Christ Jesus. Let us confess our need for grace...

Confession: God, sometimes our lives are like unsolved mysteries. We need to make choices which seem to be both right and wrong at the same time. Help us to admit our doubts, to confess our confusion, and free ourselves from the need to control every thing we touch. Help us to be kind and to treasure and value our relationships with everyone we meet. Grant us the capacity to be encouraging and understanding as well as patient in the ways we care for this your world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: As you have welcomed and received Jesus Christ as Lord, may we continue to live our lives in him, rooted and nourished by faith, as you are able, abound with thanksgiving. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering: Let the moments of our days become a blessing for the work of God's compassion in everything we touch. Amen

Prayer of Dedication: We commit ourselves to join with you, God, to nurture and nourish the community and environment around us. We pledge to join our neighbors in sharing the resources of your grace as we seek to find ways for us to open new doors of opportunity where there is need for your friendship to be at work in us with those who long for your compassion. Fill our souls with wisdom and grace so we can faithfully join you in service with love through Jesus Christ. Amen