

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

August 12, 2012

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship:

God is here, we are living in the presence of God's creation by grace.

In sunshine and stormy weather, in silence and in earthquakes,

Blessed are each of us when we embrace the present and honor God's name.

Let us share the embrace of truth with one another.

God showers us with compassionate wisdom and the call for peace.

We thank God's mercy for teaching us right from wrong.

God calls us to act with courage and integrity and care for those in need.

Today we declare again God's love never quits – never gives up!

Jesus set the example of the right way to live,

Let us trust his words and walk in faith.

We are blessed when we care with God's love. The moment we are filled with caring, then we find God also cares for us. God blesses us when our inside world - our mind and heart - are put right. Then we also see God working in the world around us.

Amen.

Invocation: God, we are breathing the air of Your holy presence. Jesus calls us to be Your servants working side by side to bring healing hope and happiness into our activity. You give us choices and authority over everyday events. You bless us with relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. You encourage our faithful citizenship in a state and nation where we can speak from the heart to government officials. You anoint each of us with the challenge of responsibility. Is any of this too much for us? Sometimes we wonder how we shall exercise faithful choices. But, You give us a vision to open our resources and hearts for sharing ourselves in cooperation with our world community. Grant us the listening power of Your heart. Help us hear the cry and need of people and all of creation. Lead us to pursue the promise of peace, as we worship You in all we do, every day. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: Ephesians 4:25-5:2 NRSV

Sermon: “Shaping Community with Honest Speech and Action”

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: “Let it all out: make a clean confession of any doubt or weakness of trust before God. Confronted with God’s grace, our stress and pressure can be lifted; our guilt will dissolve into truth; our sin will melt into new commitments.”

(Psalm 32:5)

Confession: Gracious God shine a search light on my mistakes. Help me tell You of the shadows of weakness in my soul. Examine me from head to foot. Give me a full battery of stress tests. Make sure each one of us are restored and fit from the inside out. Let us never be afraid to be made new by Your inquiring love. Keep us in step with the task of forgiveness. Lead us to strengthen our integrity. Help us to keep our homes, our work, and our study open in service as sources of honest effort. Teach us to serve peace and justice day-in-and-day-out, now and forever. Through Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: “God strengthens remarkable compassion in people. God is our emergency shelter in the raging storms of life. In God’s presence, we will exercise the courage of mercy.” Amen.

Invitation to the Offering: “Join me in spreading the good news. Side-by-side, God has caught our attention and met us more than halfway. Now, in our worship, we open the doorways from our souls. Let us bring our gifts of goodness to bless every offering with hope from the center of our abilities.”

Prayer of Dedication: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we ask you to guide our Church of the Holy Cross to new paths of mission and ministry. Bless our joyful picnic celebration and friendship with each other. Bless the ancestors of our faith and all who have given life to your compassion. Help us all to grow in faith and wisdom as a congregation sharing with people around this world. May we ourselves be instruments of reconciliation by meeting the needs of people here in Hilo, in Hawaii, and around this earth? May we invite people to embrace Your Son’s joy? We offer ourselves in service. Let us always trust in the abundant fullness of God’s blessings through Jesus Christ. Amen