

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

August 19, 2012

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship:

In the morning of this new day we greet you, God of our being. Let your Holy Spirit guide us to walk with wisdom and be secure in your compassionate strength.

Your Son, Jesus Christ, reveals the joy of living. He reaches out in hospitality so that we welcome Your presence in all people. We discover Your promise in all of creation.

God can remove all fear of the unknown. God's Son whispers to our hearts. God's Holy Spirit brings us grace and mercy, so we can embrace every moment with abundant courage. Let us be filled with the compassion God is now pouring into the days of our lives.

Come God, walk with us. Speak with us - Dream visions of grace within us. Energize our celebration of Your goodness deep within the center of our souls. Together, we declare God's marvelous presence wherever we are. Amen.

Invocation: Before we breathed our first breath of life, before our eyes could see, the Holy Presence of the Lord our God was in our lives. We were born to embody the gift of the Holy Spirit. God nurtured us in trials and tribulations,.. in mystery,.. in knowledge,.. and in discovery. God lets us find ourselves, in our actions, in our conscience, in our experiences, in our abilities, and in our relationships. God says in the eternal voice of Jesus that we are called to be one with the Holy Spirit which welcomes and greets all people in every generation. Let God come now and embrace the soul of our being. Amen.

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: I Kings 2:10-12 and 3:3-14

Sermon: "Wisdom Quest – Got Questions?"

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: “Some things I do, I did not learn from Christ. I picked up bad habits by foolishly going along a slippery crooked path and unthinkingly listened to others. Let us no longer toss away our soul’s freedom. Let us come back to the God of grace and seek forgiveness from the inside out and with one another as a gift of God’s blessing in Jesus Christ. Amen (Psalm 32:5)

Confession: We confess there is an incredible desire within us to be right, even when we have done the wrong thing. We often want to be absolutely correct even when we cut corners and make mistakes. But, we see this can make our own troubles multiply. So we now confess Lord, with Your Holy Spirit’s grace, we embrace a new life inspired with Your friendship so that we can walk with Your trust to resist any evil that comes our way. Grant us patient discernment. Let Jesus’ Spirit open us to Your forgiving love, now and always. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: “God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey his love with grace. Thanks be to God!” Amen. (Philippians 2:13)

Invitation to the Offering: God makes my life complete when I place every corner of my life before the Lord. Know God is at work in us for the good. God rewrites the script of our lives when we open our hearts to see the Lord’s way for us. Come and share from the bounty you have received.

Prayer of Dedication: Almighty God, creator of everything that is, we thank you for the blessings you have placed in our care so that we might enjoy family, community, love of learning, and the results of using our abilities. Here we place in your trust the ministry of your Church of the Holy Cross, so that as partners with you we can offer ourselves in service through your love with others. Help us to grow as a congregation with the strength to care where you want us to reach beyond ourselves with grace and service. In the name of Jesus - Amen.