

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

August 26, 2012

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Call to Worship:**

**Look! Listen! Here among us is the Lord we love! Do you see him racing to greet you? Vaulting over mountains, leaping over hills? The sun rises across the wideness of the earth. Our day with God has come. Let us awake to the Lord's glory. God's music rings with hope. Let your joy shine in the light of God's Son.**

Our loving God is like a running deer, graceful; full of life.

Look! God approaches us on eager tiptoe at the windowsill of our souls.

Let all ears, all eyes, all limbs, all hearts and minds — be ready and ring with God's call to action!

**God's loving Spirit speaks to us! Come share this sacred grace.**

**Look around you as cold hearts are melting in joy and bitter tears find new hope and laughter!**

**God's own son desires to abound with compassion wherever you are.**

We would sing with joy with all the world. Let our voices and deeds fill every forest and city dwelling with songs of life. Let us blossom exuberantly and be fruitful with the mercy of Jesus. Amen.

**Invocation:** Remember my friends how your Lord chose you for inward beauty, weaving for us the blessings of service and thanksgiving. Our thoughts fill with the beauty of wisdom in God's glory. We use our every day activity as a writer uses pen and ink to tell the story of our Lord's kind compassion. God's truthfulness invites us to experience mercy and justice. Such marvelous love embraces us with powerful arms reminding us we are always welcome. Come, God, teach us to love kindness and turn from evil. In Jesus name, we welcome the Spirit of God's everlasting love. Amen.

**WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Scripture:** Joshua 24:1-2 and 14-20

**Sermon:** "Who or What Shall We Serve? For God Has Blessed Us!"

## WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

**Call to Confession:** As we approach God in holy prayer, we are acutely aware of who and what we are. We come in a spirit of truth to find forgiveness and confess our desire to love and be reconciled with the Spirit of God. Amen.

**Confession:** Lord, when I am in the dark of uncertainty or in the light of grace lead me to seek you in everything that I do, think, or say. I cannot find you Lord, except as you reveal yourself to me. I discover you let me love you in all that you give me to do, and in everyone I meet. Grant me the strength of grace to be your person not as I will, but as you will for me to be. By the power of your Holy Spirit, I will strive to be your instrument of peace and forgiveness. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:** “We witness ...(by making choices)... by sharing in a community of reconciliation ... a forgiving community of the forgiven. Amen.” (Desmond Tutu)

**Invitation to the Offering:** “Plant your roots in Christ and let him be the foundation of your life. He has chosen you to be his. Now, choose to share God’s love as God has loved you. Be strong in your faith, just as you were taught; and be grateful.” Amen.  
(Colossians 2:7)

**Prayer of Dedication:** O God you are the source of our belonging to one another. We know none of us can offer anything to our sisters and brothers if we do not first belong to you. Bless the fullness of your spirit’s kindness as you unite us in love and service. We dedicate ourselves and this your Church of the Holy Cross to mission and ministry in the name of Jesus, Amen