

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
July 8, 2012

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship

Come greet our creating God who takes a compassionate stand in the assembly of nations;
Our Lord judges rulers of this world, examining the practices and policies of nations.

**God of all, how long will leaders judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Let
leaders rise to vindicate the weak and bring relief and justice to the afflicted or destitute.**

The Holy One rescues the weak and needy; delivering them out of the hand of the wicked.
Who among us can fully understand the dangers of world markets and global changes
impacting our local communities and neighbors?

**Give the light of wisdom to international and corporate leaders who walk in darkness
searching for answers for a clean environmental stability and peace between people.
Leader: We have encountered the foundations of the earth shaken with disasters and
environmental pollution. We say to world leaders, "You are blessed as sons and daughters
of the Most High. Nevertheless, we know the time will come when as ordinary people you
will fall from power. Do good and bring peace while you can!"**

**We humbly welcome you, O God. Let justice flow in us to heal the earth and all our people!
May common sense compassion enable nations to grasp the wisdom of caring for neighbors
while tearing down barriers of fear and divisions? Your Holy Spirit can heal the souls of
nations. Lord Jesus, come challenge and inspire us to serve as disciples of blessing in Your
world! Amen.**

Invocation: Come Holy Spirit; enlarge within us fellowship with all living creatures, who as
neighbors on this planet share their habitat with us. We praise you for the sea, the mighty
hills, and vegetation which renews our air. We listen to the birds of morning sing in sunrise
of joy. We hear the creatures of the night serenade us with the passing moments of each
day. Grant us a heart wide enough to celebrate family and friendship. Grant us wisdom to
save our souls from fear and doubt. Transform us with humble faith, thankful for Your
sacred gift of life. Let Christ's commitment to honor You enter into our choices and our
actions in all our days to come. In Jesus name we embrace your love. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: (Mark 6:1-13 NRSV) He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. {2}On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! {3}Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence* at him. {4}Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honor, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' {5}And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. {6}And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. {7}He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. {8}He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; {9}but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. {10}He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. {11}If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' {12}So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. {13}They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Sermon: "Powerful Perception"

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: "Longing for hope and healing, yearning for peace and harmony in this world where change comes faster than answers; we gather to confess our need for forgiveness and the courage to trust the path of Jesus in all that we do." (Based on Called to One Hope, Samuel Kobia)

Confession: We confess before our neighbors and all people: we have been unresponsive stewards of creation. We have taken resources and abused the natural environment. Now, we guide us to heal the earth and change from our hearts in the patterns of our lives. Let us find the will with God's help to engage in decisive action to end destruction of our habitat, the scourge of poverty, racism, war and violence. Let Christ come to dwell within us, so that we embrace his courage to love the world. Bless us with forgiveness, and teach us to forgive ourselves and one another. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: “God’s promise works when we trust God’s way of mercy that calls for us to embrace forgiveness and Christ’s love for all people. God’s promise arrives among us as a pure gift.” Amen.

Invitation to the Offering: Christ did not wait for us to be ready; he came when his willingness to sacrifice would change our lives by putting his love on the line for us. Now, we can respond by sharing what we have received – the blessing of compassion. Amen

Prayer of Dedication: Lord of life, accept our silent thoughts and cares. Receive the energy of our work and our renewed commitment to relationship and service with one another in this Your Church of the Holy Cross and in partnership with churches around the world. Work through our offerings of time, effort, skill, wisdom, generosity, and care for people in our community, our State, our nation, and across the face of the earth. Bless these gifts to serve where need cries out for help. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen