

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
October 7, 2012 - WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY  
NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Call to Worship**

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God or our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

You judge people and nations by your righteous will as declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen."**

- Statement of Faith of the UCC

**Invocation:** "God, You created our dwelling places throughout Your wide earth. We see Your Servant Jesus walking with us so that we will never forget we share our lives with all the world and all creatures great and small. Inspire us to serve with mercy and justice as advocates of human dignity and the sacredness of life. Let us live so all people can know Your love. Help us to volunteer time as well as resources to encourage each other as sisters and brothers of Jesus. May we welcome every neighbor, stranger, even our enemies in partnership with our commitment to You, O God. Amen."

## WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

**Scripture:** (Job 1:1-3, 6-11, 18-22 and 2:3-10) There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. {2}There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. {3}He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and very many servants; so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. {6} One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. {7}The Lord said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the Lord, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.' {8}The Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil.' {9}Then Satan answered the Lord, 'Does Job fear God for nothing? {10} You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. {11}But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.'

{18}A messenger came and said, 'Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house,{19}and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you.' {20} Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshipped. {21}He said, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' {22} In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing.

{Job 2:3-10}The Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.' {4}Then Satan\* answered the Lord, 'Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. {5}But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.' {6}The Lord said to Satan, 'Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.' {7} So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. {8}Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. {9} Then his wife said to him, 'Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.' {10}But he said to her, 'You speak as any disappointed (foolish) woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?' In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

**Sermon:** "How Will God Wager on Our Integrity?"

## WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

**Call to Confession:** Jesus seeks reconciliation for all broken relationships, He desires open hearts and offers healing for any who are alienated. Christ seeks justice for any who suffer from oppression. "May the peace of Christ be upon us for the good."

**Confession:** "Ever present God, challenge us and confront us with the error and weakness of our ways. Test our hearts and minds to embrace Your steadfast mercy and forgiveness. Give clarity to our vision. We want to walk without stumbling in our faithfulness with you. We confess we need the ability to forgive others as we seek the courage to make sacrifices to heal our wounded world. Show us how to take up the cause of those forgotten and those put down by their brothers and sisters. Keep us from abusing any privileges of human understanding, of compassion, and of love. Teach us, O Creator, to welcome equal participation across any borders or barriers with all people, each and every day of our lives. A-men."

**Assurance of Pardon:** "If the Lord had not been on our side we would have choked on our transgressions and not been able to swallow God's holy cup of forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." A-men.

**Invitation to the Offering:** The whole of creation is on tip-toe to see the wonderful sight of the daughters and sons of God coming into their own. Each one of us has been given the gift of life. May we come to share the abundance of grace as servants of God's blessing. A-men.

**Prayer of Dedication:** "Into Your hands, Great Sustainer of creation, we commit ourselves with all people, as one family in faith around the world, united in the hope of Jesus Christ. We bring before you our support for our Neighbors in Need by this offering. May our gifts enable people to experience Your love and care. Into Your guiding power, we place our resources and our concerns as we sanctify our pledge to work side-by-side with Your Holy Spirit." A-men.

## HOLY COMMUNION

**Invitation**

Pastor Tom Olcott

*Litany of the Bread B (Examples of Bread from around the world will be taken from the altar and placed on the Communion Table)*

Reader: (Eric Tanouye) People will come from east and west and north and south, and take their places at the feast in the Kingdom of God. We bring this pita bread in celebration of

the people of the Middle East. We honor our brothers and sisters who live in the midst of conflict and we pray with them for the peace of Christ to break forth. We thank them for the witness of courage they bring to us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Reader: (Stefan Tanouye, CHC Moderator) We bring this banana bread in celebration of the people of the Caribbean and tropics. We honor our brothers and sisters who struggle in the midst of poverty and we pray with them for the justice of Christ to break forth. We thank them for the witness of joy they bring to us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Reader: (IYAA – Men) We bring these corn tortillas in celebration of the native peoples of the Americas. We remember our brothers and sisters who seek to honor the integrity of creation and we pray with them for the healing of Christ to break forth upon the earth. We thank them for the witness of reverence they bring to us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Reader: (Samoan Church Reader) We bring this rice in celebration of the peoples of Asia. We honor our brothers and sisters who are the first to greet a new day and we pray with them for the humility to treasure each day that is given to us. We thank them for the witness of respect they bring to us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Reader: (IYAA – Women) We bring this ulu (or poi) in remembrance of the people across the Pacific. We honor our brothers and sisters who work to keep love and aloha between people strong even while technology seeps in to separate people. We pray with them for the love of Christ to grow deep. We thank them for the witness of aloha they bring to us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Reader: (Reverend Henry Wilson, Pohnpeiann Church) We bring this empty bowl to honor of the people of the world who woke today in hunger and will sleep tonight in hunger. We honor our brothers and sisters who struggle to survive and we pray with them for Christ's call to feed all who hunger and thirst for righteousness. We thank them for their witness, which reminds us to put our greed away.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Consecration of the Cup**

Pastor Tom