

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
October 14, 2012

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship

Teach us to use wisely each and every day. Help us to open the pathways of opportunity for all people. Confront us, LORD! Don't wait for us to get things going on our own! In this hour on this morning, let your love abound in us with grace. Call us to commitment.

We celebrate and are abundantly glad for all the time we have been given to live in relationship with Christ and one another. Spirit of all Creation, make us thankful for both moments when we either experience trouble or bountiful joy – for then we are stretched to grow in faith and love!

God of compassion, you do wonderful things for us, your disciples. You show your mighty power to our children, even when their eyes sparkle with laughter or cry with sorrow! May all people embrace the dance of life in your glory!

O Lord, treat us with compassion and ignite our desire us to seek justice as you guide us with the wisdom of your creation. Fill us with courage when we seek to walk in the footsteps of your Son Jesus. By the mercy of your Holy Spirit, may we hear Christ's voice as we answer his call saying, "Come Lord Jesus walk with us now, and always!"

Invocation:

Greet us Creator of each and every day! Your steadfast love never gives up on us. You never quit. Be present in the women, men, and children who surround us. Help us to seek and find your grace each hour. When we are in trouble, You, God, redeem us, and invite us to enter your power of forgiveness. Speak, God, let you Spirit whisper with truth for every hunger in our hearts. When we grieve, God, you shed tears of understanding and bless us with hope. God look through our eyes, show us how to focus beyond ourselves and experience your Son's promise for the world. Come with your Holy Spirit, transform us with love in Christ Jesus. Amen.

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: (Mark 10:17-27 NRSV): As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' {18}Jesus

said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. {19}You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother." ' {20}He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' {21}Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' {22}When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. {23} Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' {24}And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! {25}It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' {26}They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' {27}Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Sermon: "What Must I DO?"

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: Be alert knowing in the presence of God that we should avoid wrangling over words or holding fast to any grudges, none of which do any good when we consider our true desire to live fully by the power of forgiveness.

Confession: Your word, God, is so alarming that the voice of acceptance can break the chains of anxiety, fear, and doubt. So we listen to your voice calling us to forgive others as we have been forgiven. We confess our need to find the courage to be free from attitudes and prejudices that have clouded our love for strangers, for enemies, and even for those we love most. We commit ourselves to work side-by-side with you in this your world. Renew our souls with the strength to be merciful toward all people, in Jesus name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: If we die to our old habits with Christ, we will also receive the ability to embrace new life with him. If we endure, we will see ourselves in his presence... if we are faithless; he remains faithful – for he cannot deny himself which is for us the redeeming power of forgiveness and salvation. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering: Open your heart before God, keep nothing back. The Lord will do whatever needs to be done with your ability to embrace each moment with grace to bless our human experience and all of creation.

Prayer of Dedication: Almighty God, here we commit ourselves to be your faithful workers. Awake in us eagerness, alertness, and readiness for your service. We present ourselves as an offering of our gratitude. We pray that our ministry as members of the Church of the Holy Cross will find fulfillment in generous hospitality. May we bless You each day in our Big Island community and around the world. In Jesus' name. Amen