

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
CHILDREN'S SABBATH SUNDAY  
October 21, 2012

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Welcoming Pastor Neil and Kay Deupree**

**Call to Worship**

Oh, how I love your guiding laws and precepts of wisdom! On these I meditate all day long looking at my life in the shadow of your holiness. May our lives reflect the goodness of your glory.

**Your commandments to love one another open my eyes. May we see more clearly the joy of this world and not ignore your invitation to serve creation? Your voice is a light for us on dark days. Lord, lead us on the path of compassion.**

How sweet are God's words of life as they add flavor to each of our days. Through your justice, we gain understanding. Through your forgiveness, we restore balance to our relationships.

**As long as we live, we will sing and praise You, O LORD. May our thoughts and actions please you, because you are the one who makes us glad? With all our energy we praise you, Holy LORD! We are here to work with you! Amen.**

**Invocation:** Come, glorious God, Father and Mother of all creation. Greet us with your Holy Spirit calling us as children of courage to serve this day with Jesus. We praise your presence in the life of each person. Sing to us in the hymns and voices of those surrounding us. Fill us and our homes with your encouraging Spirit to risk offering ourselves in re-commitment to the integrity of caring for children. Meet us in both the bright daylight and in the darkness of the night. Confront us with the ability to learn from experience. Open us to your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

**WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Scripture:** (Mark 10:35-45 NRSV): James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' {36}And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' {37}And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' {38}But Jesus said to them, 'You do not

know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' {39}They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; {40}but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.' {41} When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. {42}So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. {43}But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, {44}and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. {45}For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

**Sermon:** "Great Service – Beyond Expectations?"

### **WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED**

**Call to Confession:** May Christ have mercy. O Christ, for the peace of the whole world, and for our salvation, we come to pray to you. Have mercy upon us,... in us,... through us,... and around us...may mercy be the instrument of our justice and compassion. Amen.)

**Confession:** Lord of life, we place before You every minute of our day-in-and-day out activities. Help us to embrace and honor you in our eagerness. Help us resist pointing fingers of blame. Strengthen our minds to overcome evil and any tempting opportunities. May we not fall into any mindless forgetfulness? Instruct us, God, to choose wisely and act with courageous integrity. Encompass us with a circle of hospitality so that we become a sanctuary to calm all anxiety. Let us welcome Christ's mercy within us, through us, and from us, now and always. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:** If God had not been working in us, we never would have made it. The minute we say, "We are slipping, Your aloha, God, reaches out to our desires, and holds us fast." Amen. (Ps 94)

**Invitation to the Offering:** Bring gifts with songs of celebration, bow before the beauty of God. God will treat everyone fairly and openly. (Ps 96:9-10)

**Prayer of Dedication:** Here we are, God! May we allow whatever we accomplish to be guided by your hand. You are shaping our souls' desire to reach out and follow the road of service with Christ. Strengthen and bless this offering we bring. Bless our love for children with integrity. Establish safe homes of security for all children every day. We dedicate everything

we touch to magnify your compassion in our words and actions. Listen to our hearts and form within us the grace of character honoring Your love in Jesus' name. Amen.