

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
November 11, 2012  
VETERANS' DAY SUNDAY

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Call to Worship**

Come all embracing and ever present God. Awake in us a spirit filled with your sacred image and energize us in faithful fellowship guided by the compassion of Jesus Christ.

**Holy God, we are present by your Son's grace. See through our eyes. Listen with our ears. Speak within our soul. Work through our limbs. Let us serve with commitment and grace.**

Our every footprint places us on your holy ground. Help us use the sacredness of our time on earth to bring blessings to all creation. May each person we meet come to know they are welcome within the circle of Your ever widening hospitality?

**May Jesus' teaching and God's Holy Spirit arise in us. May we offer the gift of thanksgiving faith. Let our talents and our desires reach out and give praise with sacred mercy. Holy God may our joy and our song be fully Yours. Amen.**

**Invocation:**

Dear Lord of all creation, sustainer of each and every day, we greet you. Lead us on the path of Jesus' love. Enable us to embrace all people as his brothers and sisters. May your Holy Spirit kindle our faith with courage and grace? We honor the memories of women and men who sacrificed their lives to preserve the freedom of opportunity for each and every generation. We acknowledge the sacred trust and our gratitude in being able to choose our government leaders through public elections. Let every challenge we undertake in our human family be the occasion for our joyful acceptance of your invitation to integrity and service. May our stewardship of this your church of the Holy Cross, in our Hilo community bless the whole earth. Empower us with grace and wisdom, by your Son's name, as we worship your presence this day. Amen.

**WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Scripture:** (Ruth 3:1-8 and 4:13-17 NRSV): Naomi her mother-in-law said to Ruth, 'My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. {2}Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing

barley tonight at the threshing-floor. {3}Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing-floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. {4}When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.' {5}She said to her, 'All that you tell me I will do.' {6}So Ruth went down to the threshing-floor and did just as her mother-in-law had instructed her. {7}When Boaz had eaten and drunk, and he was in a contented mood, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came quietly and uncovered his feet, and lay down. {8}At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and there, lying at his feet, was a woman!..... {13} So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. {14}Then the women said to Naomi, 'Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin;\* and may his name be renowned in Israel! {15}He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.' {16}Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. {17}The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, 'A son has been born to Naomi.' They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

**Sermon:** "Risk and Restoration – A Legacy of Redemption"

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

**Call to Confession:** God's way encompasses everything. With unblinking honesty our Lord examines us inside and out. He sifts through both our goodness and our weakness. Who of us could hold anything back from God's love and mercy?

**Confession:** When I want to flee from consequences,... when I am afraid,... when things change too fast,... when time is running out and I still am not ready to be bold with my faith,... when I try to save myself from my weakness - then, God, I confess I need your forgiveness and the mercy of family and friends. God fill my faith with every desire to accept myself as your child and trust that your love will never abandon me. Let your Son's Holy Spirit strengthen me with redeeming forgiveness. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:** God's promise of salvation transforms our life. God straightens us out. With faith we can look into the eyes and heart of God and discover the powerful love of Jesus calling us to make peace. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering:** God makes our life complete. When we place all our cares before the Lord's Holy presence, God lifts us with gifts of love.

**Prayer of Dedication:** We are thanking you God for moments that bless our presence with others. Now, may the gifts we bring become dedicated in service to share your love with others, in Jesus' name? Amen.