

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
November 18, 2012
COMMITMENT, CONSECRATION, AND DEDICATION SUNDAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before God's presence with thanksgiving.

Know that the Lord is God. It is God, our Creator, who has made us, and we are God's people. As the church sharing faith in Jesus Christ, we are united by his love and by his work in the world.

Enter the joy of God's creation with thanksgiving, and enter His courts with praise. Give thanks to God and praise God in this holy sanctuary.

For the Lord is good, our God's steadfast love endures forever, and the Lord's faithfulness embraces all generations. Amen.
give praise with sacred mercy. Holy God may our joy and our song be fully Yours. Amen.

Invocation:

We gather with humble and grateful hearts to offer you praise and thanksgiving, most holy God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You sustain us in good times and difficult times. Pour your Holy Spirit into the activities and events of our days so that our faith and work will honor your presence with compassion. May we respond to the call of Jesus with mercy for all who are in need and all who desire peace and security. Amen.

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: (Hebrews 10:11-25 NRSV): And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. {12}But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', {13}and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' {14}For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. {15}And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, {16} 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on

their minds’,{17}he also adds, ‘I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.’ {18}Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. {19} Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, {20}by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh),{21}and since we have a great priest over the house of God,{22}let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.{23}Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. {24}And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, {25}not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Sermon: “We All Need a Pat on the Back”

Pastor Neil Deupree

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: When we concentrate on doing our best for God, and when we work faithfully so that we won’t be ashamed, then we will honor truthfulness with forthright simplicity. Let us look up and face the Lord with thanksgiving in our hearts.

Confession: Gracious God, we know that there can be no “outsider” or anyone beyond the reach of your love. May we welcome everyone by the grace of your mercy. Help us to take seriously all of our daily choices. Thank you for the opportunities to seek reconciling partnership wherever we are. May we become eager disciples of your call for peace and truthfulness in all our relationships. Forgive us where we have not allowed ourselves to be transformed by your all- embracing compassion. Renew our hearts and minds with your wisdom. We pray this with thanksgiving in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: “God straightens us out. With trusting faith we can enter the heart of God and discover with thanksgiving the powerful embrace of Jesus’ love welcoming us home. Amen”

Invitation to the Offering: God makes our life complete when we place all our puzzling pieces before the mystery of our Lord’s Holy Presence. God lifts us with the gift of Jesus’ redeeming call to follow his example.

Prayer of Dedication: We thank you God for moments that bless our presence with others. We thank you for family, neighbors, friends, and community. We want to walk and serve with each other in this your Church of the Holy Cross. May our everyday activities add honor and glory to your name. May these gifts we bring become dedicated through our service as we share your love in Jesus’ name. Amen