

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
January 27, 2013  
Women's. Sunday

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Let the anointing by God prepare us:

**People:** **For the Unexpected; for the Difficult; for the Mundane.**

**Leader:** Let the Wisdom of God equip us:

**People:** **To be Wise, to be Vulnerable, to be Searching!**

**Leader:** Let the Spirit of God flow through us:

**People:** **In our work; in our play; in our rest.**

**Leader:** Let us open our hearts to the Mystery and Glory of God!

**People:** **Let us worship!**

**Responsive Invocation**

**Leader:** Wonderful God, we gather today to proclaim your presence in the lives of women and men of faith.

**People:** **Send your Spirit to meet us here. Guide our thoughts that we may glimpse your purpose and assignment for our lives.**

**Leader:** Open our eyes to see, our ears to hear, our hearts to understand all you have prepared for us who love you.

**People:** **We pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

**Scripture:** (Isaiah 61:1-3a) The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

**Sermon:** "On Special Assignment"

Kay Deupree

## WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

### Responsive Confession

**Leader:** When we forget the sacrifice and commitment you desire –  
To do justice, and stand up for the powerless:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** When we ignore the prayer you expect –  
To show compassion, and care for those in need:

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader:** When we avoid the assignments you reveal –  
To create relationships of righteousness and peace:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

**Assurance of Grace and Peace:** Friends, the love of God is obvious in Jesus' life. May your eyes be open to God's forgiveness. May you be equipped to proclaim, heal, comfort, set free and give leis of joy to those within your care, so that you may delight in the fullness of God's love.

**Invitation to the Offering:** Christ calls us to let our lives show the world that we are on God's special assignment. Let us freely offer our gifts of time, talent, and money to support the work of the church in Hilo and around the world. **Amen**

**Prayer of Dedication:** O God, please take these gifts and multiply them. Let them be a means to create the justice and peace you long for on this earth. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen**

Responsive Benediction

**Leader:** God sends us on assignment into the world.

**People:** Open our hearts and eyes to the possibilities before us.

**Leader:** God gives us each a task that only we can do.

**People:** Fill us with courage to follow through on our intentions.

**All:** Let the Glory of God shine through our work in the world.

*"Sha-lom, my friends, sha-lom, my friends, sha-lom, sha-lom.  
We'll see you a-gain, we'll see you a-gain. Sha-lom, sha-lom.  
Sha-lom, my friends, sha-lom, my friends, sha-lom, sha-lom."*