

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
February 3, 2013
Communion Sunday

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship

Leader: Our souls find rest and energy as we follow the Holy One. Salvation comes from the Lord. Guide us across the dark of night into the courage of a new day. Come now, Holy Spirit, enter us with your embrace of hope and peace.

People: God is my sanctuary of peace and my salvation. I will not fear God's love. The Holy Lord calls for cooperation and reconciliation. He sends us to the corners of the earth. I will answer. I will not be shaken from faith and I will do my best with compassion and grace.

Leader: Whatever is good is filled with joy for our Creator. The Lord calls each person to weave bonds of unity and peace in every family,... neighborhood,... community,... nation,... and with our world neighbors.

ALL: Let us celebrate God's hope for each person. Let us up-hold the teaching of Jesus Christ with the freedom of his embracing love. Let us boldly embody the Holy Spirit, whose strength is filled with inclusive forgiveness. Come and sing of God's welcome for the women, men, and children of every nation. AMEN.

Invocation: We would see you, Lord, as you travel this earth. Yes, you reach out to grasp the many hands of all people. Help us to step forward as your disciples with trusting friendship. Guide us to value our diversity, and many gifts, and blessings which come to us from around the world. Draw near to us in this hour of worship. We pray with people of faith from every tradition that all people might be liberated from hatred and violence. Help us release the blindness imposed by prejudice. Inspire us to work as your partners every day to secure bonds of understanding. May we welcome all Your brothers and sisters by the grace of Your Holy Spirit. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: : (Luke 4: 21-30 NRSV): ²¹Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words

that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' ²³He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' ²⁴And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian. ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Sermon: "Prophet Walking the High Wire of Risk"

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in the teaching and faith of Jesus Christ. Let us embrace face to face every truth in our experience, so that our words and actions find the spiritual strength to love even those we want to confront or ignore.

Confession: O Lord, we confess our need to be delivered from any fears of the unknown future; from doubt of failure; from any neglect and oversight that disrespects any other person. Help us by your grace to fill our souls with a cheerful grasp of energy to obey your call to love all people. Let us embody your compassionate commitment with hearts and minds to openly welcome any differences among people, as you bless our lives. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: What marvelous love the Lord has extended to us - we are called children of God! We are God's neighbors in the universe. This is who we are! We are transformed as new people following Christ Jesus and our sins are forgiven. Amen

Invitation to the Offering: God, You give us everything, and constantly invite us to be able to share. Let us like Christ claim the freedom of our faith to give of ourselves for the sake of the whole world. Amen

Prayer of Dedication: Sustainer God, we thank you in Jesus Christ, who calls all people equal in your sight. We dedicate these gifts we bring. We remember You welcome us to step forward with you in ministry with every stride we take each day,.. to share the blessings which you have placed in our care,.. so that each one of us might become rich with Your

Holy Spirit,.. Grant us grace and friendship through our faithfulness with your Holy Spirit.
Amen.