

FROM PASTOR TOM

AMAZED BY TRANSFORMING LIFE IN A WORLD OF CHANGE

A small town library was having a 25 cent sale on books and collections of magazines. The Audubon birds captured my attention and for one quarter I secured the issues from 1973-74 in a binder.

Glimpsing through the pages, gorgeous swirls of rocks caught my eye. Pictures captured Point Lobos, California, where I have seen otters, sea lions, pelicans, and people bask in the beauty of the rugged rocks reaching out into the wild surf. Lobos has a likeness to the coastal beauty of Hawaii extended from across the ocean. Then, I read a descriptive caption beside pictures of tidal zone rocks and cliffs.

This descriptive passage reminds me of the Lenten/Easter events in the life of Jesus – and the meaning of scripture’s **“rock of salvation”** reaching across time. Listen to the eternal presence unfold is the surge of the sea and the rugged stamina of the earth rising from the ocean depths. It embraces change and endurance and reminds us of our partnership with God’s creation and all the earth. It also reminds us of how our lives on earth embrace the eternal changes of natural life we meet faithfully every day.

Audubon 1973 “Rocks of Lobos” by David Leveson:

“The seam where continent meets ocean is a line of constant change, where every roll of the waves, every pulse of the tides, as the past gives way to the future. There is a sense of time and growth and decay (or decline), of life mingled with death. It is an unsheltered place, without pretense. The hint of forces beyond control, of days before and after human span, spell out a message ultimately important, ultimately learned: now, forever, mortality, infinity...mimics, deceives, exhilarates, yet mocks (our grasp of understanding).

“The geography of a continent is compressed into an acre, a square foot, the surface of a pebble, if one looks closely and carefully enough. It lends, momentarily, impressive size and stature to the human form (and experiences of mammoth size and

smallness). One grasps the whole rather than the part. One floats above rather than being immured (or immersed) within. It confers, for an instant, the illusion of omnipotence. The eye lifts and another message is clear. All that we are, all that we cherish, ends (and meets) here, at the joining of land and sea, drifting, decaying, merging with its (and our) source...”

- May God grant us the wisdom and patience of time to embrace our world through every changing moment of transition so that we can become transformed by sacred compassion and grace as we yield to the strength of living with forgiveness expressed in the life of our world and God’s Son, Jesus. Amen

Pastor Tom

NOTES FROM PASTOR JOHN

Judy and I are full of gratitude for the opportunity to be with you over these next 3 months.

Already we are thankful for the warm greeting and hospitality we received – first at the airport, and then at church this past Sunday. We have settled in to the parsonage, with the sound of the rain at night very much like the sound on the roof of our home in southwest Washington. Though, I have to admit, the serenade of the coqui frogs is not one we normally hear in Naselle!!

I am excited about the Lenten classes on Way Words, and for the other opportunities to be in ministry with and among you. As some of you know, Judy retired on February 8th after 17 years as a 911 dispatcher for our county. She is looking forward to the chance to take up artwork once again, to putter in the parsonage garden – and perhaps most of all, not having to get up at 4:30 am for shift work. We both enjoy snorkeling (Judy is the better swimmer!) and walking, so we will definitely take advantage of this beautiful land which you call home.

Again, we look forward to our time with you in this very gracious and innovative ministry of

Visiting Associate Pastors you have made possible.

Mahalo!

In Christ's service,

John Indermark
jji@wwest.net

CLERGY RETREAT

CLERGY RETREAT IN KONA
TO BE LED BY
PASTOR JOHN INDERMARK

On Monday through Wednesday, March 4-6, the Hawaii Island Association of the United Church of Christ HI Conference will hold a Retreat for Clergy at the King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel. Pastor Tom and Pastor John will both be in attendance. 36 Clergy from across our islands gather each year for three days to build collegial relationships and explore vital aspects of their shared ministries. This year, Pastor John who has written several books of mediation and study for the Upper Room religious publishing service will be the resource leader for the Clergy Retreat sponsored by the Mokupuni Church and Ministry Committee and the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Pastor Tom and Pastor John will leave for Kona on Monday morning and return to Hilo on Wednesday evening. While they are in Kona the Monday night and Wednesday morning Bible Study classes will not be held.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH

PASTOR JOHN INDERMARK is leading *Lenten Bible Study* on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in Pastor Toms' office. Pastor John is using a Lenten guide book, **Way Words**, he wrote. Participants are welcome to explore the road we take with Jesus as we look with faith toward the challenge of the cross and the significance of Lent and Easter for our lives. Come join Pastor John and others for conversation and discovery.

ADULT DISCUSSION EVERY SUNDAY MORNING

Each Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. adult members of our church are invited to the Lounge to join the opening exercises with the children of our Sunday School. At 9:00 a.m. the children and youth go to their classes.

Adults are invited to stay until 9:50 and join in faith discussions using short excerpts of meditations on faith experience and insight from an anthology that encompasses a great variety of Christian writers. Topics include: The Gift of Life; A Broken World; The Search for God; Thoughts on God; Approaches to Prayer; The Journey of the Spirit; Living With Each Other; Gifts of the Spirit; When the Way is Dark; and Pictures of Heaven. Come join us and share a cup of coffee as we discuss our views as each writer offers a spark for our reflection together.

A MUST-SEE MOVIE

Please join the Special Screening of "The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i. This movie, produced by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, is the first full-length documentary to depict the injustice suffered by the over 2,000 men and women of Japanese ancestry who were arrested, detained and interned in Hawai'i. This event is co-sponsored by the Hawai'i Japanese Center. There will just be one showing in Hilo:

Date: Saturday, March 23

Place: Hawai'i Japanese Center - Hilo

Time: 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Price: \$8.00

In addition to the Book Gallery (259 Keawe Street) tickets are also available at KTA Puainako.



There are four Sundays that we need help to **DECORATE THE ALTAR FOR WORSHIP**. Open dates are May 5, May 19, June 16 and September 29. Please call Margaret at 935-4071 if you are able to fill one of the slots. Also please call Margaret If you are already listed and cannot do it.

Thank you.



Easter Lily orders are \$13.80.
Please make checks payable to Cindy Debus.
The last day to order is Sunday March 10.

VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH

USHERS: IYAA

FLOWERS:

- 03/03 Tokie Fujimoto(Mem.) Miyo Tanita
(Mem.), Lynn Del Rosario (Mem.)
- 03/10 Dorothy Matsui
- 03/17 Millie Daikawa
- 03/24 Goya Family (Mem).
- 03/31 Easter Lilies

CHILDCARE:

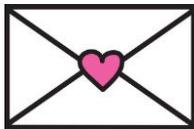
- 03/03 Moira Tanaka
- 03/10 Patti Hong
- 03/17 Cindy Debus
- 03/24 Yoko Hayano
- 03/31 Eileen Shiraishi

LAYREADERS:

- 03/03 Jayson Rekis
- 03/10 Bob Smith
- 03/17 Jane Kawazoe
- 03/24 Anne Sadayasu
- 03/31 Ruth Niino-DuPonte

REFRESHMENTS:

- 03/10 Patti Hong, Gail Wung, Kay
Kawachika, Mary Ann Katayama
- 03/31 EASTER GOODIES



Shizue Akiyama’s daughter reports that her
mom would love to receive messages and
notes from church members. Her address is:
1314 Kalakaua Ave. Apt 1114
Honolulu, HI 96826