

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
February 10, 2013
Transfiguration Sunday

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Call to Worship (Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ)

We believe in you, O God. Eternal Spirit. God or our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Invocation: Lord, you guide us to the mountain top of hope and promise and also into the valleys of everyday reality. We want to follow your voice calling for peace and justice. We desire to reach high places of faith so that we can feel your presence forever in all we do. You lead us into ordinary places where we are in the market places of our community. You take us where life is filled with sorrow and abundant joy. You remind us you hear our needs - our cry for mercy. Send us with your Holy Spirit to minister to each other so that wherever we walk is holy ground. Draw near to us and grant us the grace to love that we may find in your will our true freedom; through Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, the life. Amen.

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: : (Luke 9:28-37 NRSV): ²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly

they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. ³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him.

Sermon: "Transforming Relationships"

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 God, we have lived our lives the way we want to, as if you were not accompanying us. We have wasted the inheritance you entrusted to us. Help us not to discourage people instead of respecting them. Too often we complain to you of our troubles when we could celebrate the relationships which strengthen our lives. O God, we are not worthy to be your children. Forgive us, and grant us the gift of your love in our relationships, which we do not deserve and which embraces us beyond expectation. Amen

Assurance of Pardon: Fortunate are you, our Lord does not keep score. Even when the dumpster of our failure was full, Jesus hauled away our sins. We now live with a clean slate. We have a new beginning. We are transfigured and transformed. God is eager to work with us. Let us have courageous faith to do what is right. Amen

Invitation to the Offering: As stewards of God, we bring our offerings and ourselves with a deep concern to do God's will. The offering will be received.

Prayer of Dedication: How grateful we are, O God, that you provide for us and choose us to be your stewards as we bring these offerings to you in the service of Jesus Christ. Amen.