

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
February 17, 2013  
First Sunday in Lent

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

**Anyone who has spent the dark shadows of the night seeking God,  
Say this, “God you are my refuge! I trust in you and I am safe!”**

We can count on this: God rescues us from hidden traps,  
Defends us from deceptive and frightening dangers.  
When temptation comes to greet us,  
We will rely on the word of God for strength and wisdom.

**Hope in the Lord’s Holy Spirit renews our strength;  
Has he not told us, “Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name. When you call to me, I will answer,  
I will be with you in times of trouble; I will rescue you and show you salvation. Amen**

**Invocation**

We come to honor God with grace and love. We seek to follow Jesus as his disciples. May the hand of Christ be upon us for the good? We confess we desire spiritual insight to see and to serve God. May the grace of creation encourage our souls to care faithfully for all the world. May we open our hearts and all our daily adventures to worship God with love for all who are in need – even ourselves! Let us welcome God’s Holy Spirit with honor and thanksgiving.  
Amen.

**WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Scripture:** (Luke 4:1-13)

**Sermon:** “Face to Face In Every Wilderness Challenge”

## WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

### **Responsive Confession**

God reaches out to us to heal our wounded souls. God knows that even when we do wrong we have greater potential for doing right. The Holy Spirit knows us when we are awake or asleep. Let us not be found day-dreaming when God has already asked for our help and mercy for this world.

**Assurance of Pardon:** When asked, Jesus affirmed he was willing to heal the human person in body, soul, mind, and spirit. Thanks be to God for this abundant grace. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering:** Whatever has been given to us is intended to be a blessing to enable us with love to share from the very substance of our lives. Each of us is created in the image of the Holy One, let us live to give honor to God in whatever we do or touch. Amen

**Prayer of Dedication:** Jesus, We gather as people united in faith before your Holy Cross. We are placing ourselves into your trusting care. Here are the memories of this past week, here are our family and friends, here is our hearts desire, here is a token of our labor's reward - all are placed on the altar of your mercy and love. Receive us in the power of your Holy Cross and send both our gifts and ourselves into the world to minister and serve all people. By your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Benediction