

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
February 24, 2013
Second Sunday of Lent

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Let us Sing and have fearless Trust in God.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; of whom shall I be afraid?

The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?

People: When evildoers come upon us to destroy our humanity, our adversaries and enemies will stumble and fall in confusion. Though a host plot evil against us, our heart will not fear, and we will rise in faith with courage; in all this we shall be confident.

Leader: One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That we may dwell in the presence of the Lord all the days of our lives, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. Join me as I praise God.

ALL: On the day of trouble the Lord will shelter us under wings of justice. In the secret place of our Creator's dwelling, God will preserve our souls. Such hospitality will reach beyond the limits of imagination. He will lift us up on holy ground. We will sing, yes, we will sing praises to the Lord. Amen

Invocation: God of grace, together we turn to you, for it is you who unites us in one Holy Spirit. You are the one who whispers hope to the soul of our existence. You ask us to be faithful in our every word and action. You are parent, Son of Creation, and Sacred Spirit – for all who believe. You alone can empower us for the good. You call us to stewardship of the universe in which we live. You send us out across the face of this earth on a mission of service in the name of Christ. Let us announce creation's environment holds the key of our existence. God in your grace help us embrace, heal with wholeness, and celebrate the embracing Love of Jesus Christ for all people. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: (Luke 13:31-35) 31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' 32 He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for

me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem."³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

Sermon: "You Got to Know When to Hold 'em, Know When to Fold 'em "

Pastor John Indermark

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice and be gracious unto us and answer us. When You said, "Seek My face," our hearts say, "Your face, O Lord, We shall seek."
(Psalm 27:7-8)

Confession: We confess before you and all people we have been unworthy and unresponsive as we have enjoyed too much the luxury benefits of an economy and technology which can misuse and destroy habitats, environments, and creation. We have joined with other nations and wounded one another in conflicts and divisions. In this we have fallen short as disciples of Jesus Christ. Now, we stand ready to join Jesus and renew our commitment to restore wholeness and health through forgiveness, compassion, and love where there is hurt and suffering. Hear our prayer, and grant us the courage of working for peace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Be strong and let your heart take courage. Yes, wait for the Lord. When we stop to see what's happening - we will hear God calling our name. And, we can respond without fear or anxiety. Amen

Offertory Invitation: Transform us as we offer ourselves so that we may be your partners in the transformation you seek through the grace and courage of Jesus' words and actions as these live through us. Amen

Prayer of Dedication: God in your glorious grace receive from us the benefits and the gifts we bring to the foot of your Holy Cross. May we become ambassadors of reconciliation and peace in our personal lives and in our social and community relationships at work, in school, and in voluntary activities. Help us to worship your presence through our accountability. Guide our choices by the words of Jesus Christ and through the encouragement of your Holy Spirit. Amen