

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
March 3, 2013 – Amistad Sunday
Communion - Third Sunday of Lent

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Come let us lift up our souls and worship;
We welcome God to work with us through the challenges we face;
To travel with us, whisper in our hearts,
Let us write the story of the Lord's love in all our action.

**People: Yes, we are called by God to be consecrated in faith
Let us walk in God's love in service with one another**

Leader: Come God, reach out, and touch the fabric of our existence;
Show us the pathway of compassion and understanding,
Preserve and strengthen us with mercy and integrity.

**ALL: Let Jesus' words flow into our thinking and our action.
Let us share the joy of Jesus where ever we are.
We come to worship God and be embraced by the Holy Spirit.**

Invocation: To you, O Lord we lift up our souls. Our hearts come filled with concern for our family members and friends, and for any who need your presence and who seek our help. Come and touch our hearts in this hour of worship. Show us your ways, guide our foot steps, and teach us to love. Come now and meet us here in the center of your grace as we worship you in Jesus' name. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: : (Isaiah 55:1-9): Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Sermon: "Everyone Has An Invitation – BOGO!"

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: There must not be a hint of doubt, greed, hatred, immorality, or any kind of grasping impurity, because these are improper for God's Holy people- ...Rather let thanksgiving be in our character and fill our speech. (Ephesians 5:8)

Confession: O God, the enormity of what we could have done and what we have left un-done causes us to seek your forgiveness for our failures and our sins. We struggle to put behind us any temptations that would invite us to be something other than your own people. We see the consequences which result from our actions - and ask for your merciful grace. We know that each day you bless us with new hope. We ask for forgiveness and the ability to turn our hearts toward humble compassion so we can serve with love, in Jesus' name.
Amen

Assurance of Pardon: Jesus said, "If you live by my teaching example, living as I tell you, you are my disciples. Take up your cross and follow me. Then you will experience for yourselves the joy of truthfulness, and this truth will set you free." Amen

Invitation to the Offering: Remember, God has not loved us to get something from us, but to give everything of Christ's Holy blessing to us. We can all give unconditionally with our spirits full of holy love.

Prayer of Dedication: God, we open ourselves in the Spirit of Your holy and sacred partnership. We ask you to work through these gifts of sharing to minister in places where we may never personally go. Let Christ's presence touch the lives of those in need. We place the gift of our lives before You. We ask you to bless the articles we have brought to

encourage those who are set free from prison and who have re-entered our community. Receive us and all that is within us unto Yourself. With thankful hearts, we are yours for ministry and mission, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen