

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
March 17, 2013 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: When God sees the circumstances of our lives, any trouble we face; the Lord hears our cry for help and knows our desire for relief. God remembers the partnership of covenant with his people, and with immense love, takes us by the hand and pours out mercy upon us, so that we need not be captivated by our fear.

**People: Oh, thank God! – God is good! The Lord’s love never runs out, we are redeemed and rescued by God. Let us tell the whole world – God frees us from oppression and doubt.
(Psalm 107 selected verses)**

Leader: God calls us from every place and in every circumstance, God calls us from east and west, from north and south, from Hilo Bay, and from travels in distant places - Wherever we live, God calls us to trust with courage in love and mercy.

**All: Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
God’s steadfast love endures forever,
We are gathered in faith as one people;
We celebrate the diversity of God’s holy goodness. Amen**

Invocation:

God, you are the source of all life. We have come here from our homes. We pray that you will gather us together in heart and mind. Each of us has so many experiences to share. Each of us seeks your grace. Each of us has been given a different personality. Make of this wild and beautiful array in us, one glorious reflection of your love. We are anointed by your grace in all our relationships. By the breath of the Holy Spirit, reveal the face of Christ for us, reaching out to us, dwelling within us, and through us; and in each other; to your glory. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: {John 12:1-8} Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they hosted a dinner for him. Martha

served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Then Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Sermon: "Indulgence"

Pastor John Indermark

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: There is nothing hidden from God. There is only our attempt to hide behind a mask by pretending. Remove every false show of perfection and relax into the grace of God's Holy Word, for the Spirit knows all and still loves us.

Confession: **Honestly, Lord, sometimes it's hard to believe that you see each part of our lives and still offer a cup of water to us. If any one else knew what you know, we would be ashamed and embarrassed. We are humbled that you see everything and choose to talk to us and walk with us anyway; choosing to love us always; choosing to trust us with this good news, choosing to send us as your appointed disciples to forgive the world as you love the world. Thank you for your kindness and mercy at work in us. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon: Jesus said to the woman at the well and to you: "The water I give will be in you a spring of living water gushing fountains of endless life, a blessing unto new life. Amen."

Invitation to the Offering: What might you be able to do to change the world for Jesus? Offer whatever you have and it will become your gift of blessing.

Prayer of Dedication: Lord, you can take the oddest bits of what others have thrown away and pour thirst quenching life and hope into our world. We give you gifts accumulated with hope and dedicate them to your service in our church and throughout the earth. May we share compassionate mercy that brings help in places of need? May our generosity spring into eternal life giving refreshment with care and compassion? We pray that we might live by your Holy Spirit. Amen