

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
March 24, 2013  
PALM SUNDAY – INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP

We welcome the Samoan Church and the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga  
as we join in worship today

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Responsive Call to Worship - [Statement of Faith of UCC]**

**Puna (Lanikaula Street side):** 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.

Hamakua (Building of Faith side): *You judge people and nations by your righteous will as 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.*

**Puna:** 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.

Hamakua: *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.*

**All:** 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: Palm Sunday Gospel Reading – Scripture:**

***Sound Effects by Congregation:***  
*Please express (shout/hush) sounds while sign is held up –  
Stop sounds when sign is lowered*

“...After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples,

***Congregation’s SOUND EFFECTS:***

***“Hey, get going!” / “move on!”***

“...saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden.

***Congregation’s SOUND EFFECTS:***

***Make “horse” sounds or use coconuts for hoof beats***

“...Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' Just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"...

***Congregation’s SOUND EFFECTS:***

***“Why?” / “What are you doing?” /  
“Who do you think you are?”***

“...They said, "The Lord needs it..."

***Congregation’s SOUND EFFECTS:***

***“Oh yeah” / “OK” / “No problem”***

“...Then the colt brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along,...

***Congregation’s SOUND EFFECTS:***

***Hand-to-knee slaps or use coconuts for hoof beats***

“...The people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen,...

***Congregation’s SOUND EFFECTS:***

***“Praise God!” / “Hallelujah!”***

“...And they were saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!..."

***Congregation’s SOUND EFFECTS: Applause !!!***

“...Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop..."

***Congregation’s SOUND EFFECTS: “Boo!” / “No!”***

“...Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these were silent,..."

***Congregation’s SOUND EFFECTS: “Ssshhhhhh!!!”***

“...The stones would shout out!..."

***Congregation’s SOUND EFFECTS: Applause / cheers!!!***

**WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Invitation to the Offering:** As Jesus approaches us, We celebrate his coming. With our eyes wide open in gratitude, we pray that doors will open for those in need,... May we feed the hungers of this world with the bread of life and the power of God’s love ...shape our efforts to share the good news of Jesus,... let our energy give glory to God.

**Parade of the Palms and Hymns of Praise / Offering –**

**Prayer of Dedication:** God, As we welcome your Son, Jesus, we bow in your presence with humble hearts, fill us with your Holy grace to bless this world. Receive our gifts to serve with spiritual and material blessings of mercy for the universe of your creation. May we bless others as you have blessed us in Jesus Christ. Amen

***FINDING PEOPLE WHO COME TO CELEBRATE JESUS AS MESSIAH ON PALM SUNDAY***

(Pastoral explanation)

*An activity for the whole congregation. Please go to the tables in the breezeway and side porches to color and assemble your “person.” Then bring your “person” to be placed on the steps approaching the altar. And then, resume your seat for the conclusion of our service of worship. – “Mahalo!”*

## **WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED**

**Call to Confession:** Be neither afraid nor anxious. Believe in God, My Father, who cares about you, always. Amen. (John 13:34)

**Confession (in unison):** Lord, open our eyes to be blessed by your mercy. We welcome you as our Savior. We know full well you do not like ... the arrogance of pride,... voices of falsehood,...hands which abuse the innocent,... hearts that devise wicked schemes,... any who chase evil goals,...all lies which do not witness to the truth,... and those who stir up dissension in the human family. Grant us forgiveness in our hearts; teach us to love those we do not want to like. Pardon our forgetfulness and sin. Amen. (Proverbs 6:16-19 adapted)

**Assurance of Pardon:** Jesus' holy mercy walks with each of us every day. We embrace Jesus' friendship as we share the cup of his forgiveness from sin. Amen.

## **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Thursday evening, Maundy Thursday Service, March 28, at 7:00 PM we will observe Holy Communion in a Tenebrae Service recalling the Last Supper of Jesus and his arrest.

Good Friday, March 29, from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM Pastor John Indermark will lead a prayer service vigil observing the suffering of Jesus on the Cross.

Saturday, March 30 at 9:00 AM – Egg Dyeing in J's Café (the old Kitchen). All are welcome to come join the creative fun and the wonderful results. Please wear old clothes.

Easter Sunday, March 31, Community Sunrise Service, around 6:00 AM (at a location to be announced).

EASTER SUNDAY - 8:30 AM hiding Easter Eggs around the campus. 8:45 AM Children's Easter Egg Hunt and activities meeting in the Lounge.

EASTER Worship at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary Celebrating Jesus' Resurrection.

## **Events The Week after Easter**

Monday Night Bible Study with Pastor John Indermark 6:30 PM, Pastor Tom's office.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor John Indermark 9:30 -11:00 AM, Pastor Tom's office.

Wednesday Evening IYAA Bible Study in the Lounge 7:30 PM

Friday, April 5 – Decorating the Holy Cross float for the Merrie Monarch Parade in the Church Parking Lot Morning and afternoon.

Saturday April 6 - Merrie Monarch Festival Parade before 8:00 am