

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
March 31, 2013  
EASTER SUNDAY

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Hear the good news of Jesus Christ: “Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.”

**People:** **Jesus, Son of God, rise and work through us. We join Jesus Christ in love and care for the world – to the glory of God!**

**Leader:** God has granted us a great mystery for our salvation. We shall not fall into the sleep of death, but we shall be transformed in the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ. Our perishable life shall put on the imperishable, and our mortal nature shall put on immortality.

**People:** **The Lord is our strength and has become our salvation.  
Sing glad songs of victory in the dwelling places of the righteous:  
The right hand of the Lord is exalted.**

**Leader:** We shall not die, but we shall live, Let each of us recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord disciplines our transgressions and with grace gives us new life.

**All:** **Our Holy God has not given us over to fear or death. The Son, Jesus Christ, opens the gates of the justice and the mercy, let us enter God’s kingdom on the path of peace and reconciliation.  
We give thanks to the Lord who lifts us up. Amen.**

**Invocation:** Risen Lord, you walk side by side with us every day – help us to turn to you for guidance. Almighty God, in Christ Jesus, You embrace all of life calling us to embrace your holy way, your revealing truth, and the sacredness of each day. Pour your amazing grace into us. Let Your love for us become our love for creation. May our foot steps inspire us to step forward in faith with courage? May your voice call to us to share your forgiveness? May Your Holy Spirit infuse us with new life and compassion. Grant, O God, that we may ever, and

always, embrace the presence of Your joy through Christ's resurrection within us. Father, let Your Son live and reign throughout all our days with the Holy Spirit. Amen

## WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

**Gospel Lesson:** John 20:1-18

Early on the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they put him!"

Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who got there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, and the others at the foot where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman why do you weep?"

"They took my Master," she said, "and I don't know where they put him." After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him.

Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?"

She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "Sir, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him."

Jesus said, "Mary!"

Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "*Rabboni!*" meaning "Teacher!"

Jesus said, "Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples, "I saw the Master!" And she told them everything he said to her.

**Sermon** *"They Did Not Understand – He Had Risen – That Joy Might Abound"*

## WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

**Call to Confession:** The Spirit searches all things, shining light into darkness, and reveals our deep passion for God. God's Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of everyone and helps us see our own spirit's passion within us. So now we can receive forgiveness by the grace of Jesus Christ? Let the Holy Spirit search us so that we will find mercy and new life in Christ Jesus.

**Confession: (in unison)** Holy Spirit and God of grace, probe the inner reaches of our thoughts and actions. Heal us from the pain and error of our ways. Where we have hidden our sins and our grievances from our past, come now to clean away any anger, any despair, and any misunderstanding from our memories. May this Easter be our time of reconciliation with all who are estranged. Enable us to embrace our responsibilities. Infuse our lips and our limbs with your forgiveness so we can embrace our transformation as we follow the voice of Your Son's call to sacrifice and service. We confess we need You God, let us rise with Christ in your love every way, in every way. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:** You have been raised with Christ. Now, set your minds on things that are above the ways of common life on earth, for you have overcome the ways of death. Now, let the power of your life be given into the hand of God with Christ who holds you close and will reveal to you how to honor God with glory in all that you do. Amen.

(Colossians 3:1-4)

**Invitation to the Offering:** Give thanks to the God of Heaven, God's love endures forever. Praise the Lord with all that is within you, see and praise the way of the Lord with thanksgiving. Remember how God continues to bless us, so that we are able to share the abundance of all we have received.

**Prayer of Dedication:** Now God, you call us. We pray that by our words and our actions we may commit ourselves each day to be your faithful disciples as we invite one another to enter the joy and celebration of Your Son's resurrection and renewed life. As we offer ourselves in Easter dedication to your service, we ask you to work through all our energies as your Church of the Holy Cross in ministry and mission. Help us to reach beyond ourselves and care for others. Let our church family welcome and bless all who call upon Your compassion with mercy. By Jesus' own love for all, we pray. Amen

### **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