

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
April 28, 2013

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

People: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let us praise the name of the Lord who commanded and they were created. And he established them forever and ever; by God's decree it shall not pass away.

Leader: Praise the Lord from the earth, you marvelous sea creatures! Wind and fire, hail, snow, and mist, stormy clouds fulfilling creation's energy! Mountains and valleys; fruit trees and all cedars! Animals and all livestock, any creeping things, and flying birds! Praise the Lord of Creation!

ALL: Rulers of nations and all peoples! Young men and maidens together; seniors and children! O, Let us praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; such majesty is above earth and heaven. God calls all creation to shine with glory! Amen.

Invocation: O Holy God, all things are made like new and mended with the glue of Your love. Come and skip in excitement with us as we discover the path of hope for each person. May your vision of one world for all creation and all people inspire us to show kindness for every living creature? May Your Holy Spirit come with joy to bless every child, woman, and man with harmony, peace, security and love as your Son, Jesus, calls us to trust in his promise for life. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: (Revelations 21:1-6) "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as bride adorned for her husband. And, I heard a voice from the throne saying, "See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with

them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Sermon: “The God Who Makes All Things New: Ah-ha or Oh-oh!” Pastor John Indermark

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: Don’t ever get tired of waiting, know this, God’s Holy Spirit is right along side of us helping us along. Having a hard time finding the words to express your soul? When we do not know how to pray, or say the right words, it doesn’t matter, God is praying in us and for us and knows our soul’s desire. (Rm 8:26-27)

Confession (in unison): O God whose realm must be entered as children of creation, we live in a world that looks for results and quick-and-easy answers to difficult challenges in all our environmental and human relationships. We eat junk food when our souls are empty. We confess the rush for results often lets us forget to listen to cherished visions of peace and the expectations of future generations. Help us to care for parents, their children, youth, the poor and those caught in violent circumstances. Come God help us see how Jesus calls us to love one another despite our differences. Let us accept your challenge to walk with forgiveness in faith with Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: God has set everything right between the love of Jesus, and you, and me. Scripture says, “No one who trusts God like this – heart and soul – will ever regret it. Amen

Invitation to the Offering: Our generous God gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for our meals is more than extravagant with each one of us. God gives you blessings you can give away, which nurture relationships energized by grace, wealthy with love and forgiveness. Share gifts of God’s love for all people.

Prayer of Dedication: God, we dedicate the integrity of our lives as we thank you for all the nations of the world this day. We thank you for teachers and all who care for them. We thank you for our own children and the children of our community. We dedicate our support for Bread for the World supporting hunger relief. May we always be guided by Your creative and renewing Spirit and so bless the people we meet through our ability to be generous with compassion in caring for others as Your Church of the Holy Cross. Amen