

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
May 5, 2013 – Communion Sunday

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: May God be gracious unto us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

People: **Let the peoples praise you, O God;**
let all the peoples praise you!
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

Leader: For you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;

All: **Let all the peoples praise you!**
the earth has yielded its increase;
May God bless us and the ends of the earth revere him! Amen.

Invocation: Come Spirit of Christ, and find a home in our human hearts. Open our awareness to the gifts of your Holy Spirit for patience,.. loyalty,.. compassion,.. kindness,.. gentleness,.. self-control,.. and serenity with peace,.. joy,.. as well as your abiding love. Help us to examine the difficult events of our lives. May we gain the ability to grow in self-understanding as we trust your sacred words? Inspire us to care for the people who are around us in our daily lives, as well as for those who we will never meet. Come into our homes. Work beside us on the job, in our retirement, and when we are at rest. Pour your Spirit of grace into the substance of our relationships so that we have abundant courage to live as your people. Amen

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: (John 14:23-31) “Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's

who sent me. "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

Sermon: "Together in Faith"

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: One person said, "No!" to God and led many astray. One person, Jesus himself, said, "Yes" to God and has put many in right relationship with their creation.

Confession (in unison): God, each and every week we try our very best to live according to the love you have shown us in Jesus. But, somehow we find our selves distracted and forgetful and speak and react according our self interest, our desires, and what we feel we need to make us feel safe. Sometimes, we eat too much food. Sometimes, forget to speak kindly. Sometimes, we have created too much trash. Sometimes, we ignore a chance to help. Sometimes, we have not shown your love and compassion for others. Come heal our wounded spirits, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: "Sin has no chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call the grace of Christ Jesus." Amen. (Rm 5)

Invitation to the Offering: God does not respond to what we do, we respond to what God has done in Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Dedication: Holy God, we come into your presence with gifts prepared from the work of our hands and the labor of our days. We ask that you receive these offerings as a token of our commitment to work side by side with you to respond to the needs of your world. We ask that we might always embrace partnership with Jesus' mission and ministry. Amen

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S TABLE

Unison reading of the Covenant of our Church of the Holy Cross:

"We covenant with one another to seek to respond to the Word and the will of God. We agree to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did those who came before us, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life."