

**THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
United Church of Christ - Congregational
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
August 11, 2013**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP
ALL-CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY

Pre-Service Music

Words of Greeting & Concerns of the Church **Barbara Iwami**

Pastoral Welcome and Sharing the Peace **Pastor Tom Olcott**

Prelude **Kayleen Yuda**

Call to Worship

Leader: God is here, we are living in the presence of God's creation by grace ... In sunshine and stormy weather, in silence and in earthquakes ... Blessed are each of us when we embrace the present and honor God's name ... Let us share the embrace of truth with one another.

People: God showers us with merciful wisdom and the call for peace. We thank God's grace for teaching us right from wrong. God calls us to act with courage and integrity and care for those in need.

Leader: Today, we declare again God's love never quits – never gives up! Jesus set the example of the right way to live. Let us trust his words and walk in faith.

All: We are blessed when we care with God's love. The moment we are filled with caring, then we find God also has compassion for us. God blesses us when our inside world - our mind and heart - are put right. Then we also see God working in the world around us. Amen.

***Hymn # 86 "When Morning Guilds the Skies"**

*** Invocation:** God, we are breathing the air of Your holy presence. Jesus calls us to be Your servants working side by side to bring healing hope and happiness into our activity. You give us choices and authority over everyday events. You bless us with relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. You encourage our faithful citizenship in a state and nation where we can speak from the heart to government officials. You anoint each of us with the challenge of responsibility. Is any of this too much for us? Sometimes we wonder how we shall exercise faithful choices. But, You give us a vision to open our resources and hearts for sharing ourselves in cooperation with our world community. Grant us the listening power of Your heart. Help us hear the cry and need of people and all of creation. Lead us to pursue the Holy Spirit of peace, as we worship You in all we do, every day. Amen

***Keiki Hymn # 562 "Take My Gifts"**

WE SHARE THE WORDS OF GOD

Sharing with Children

*** Lord's Prayer** (Unison using "debts")

Anthem:

Scripture: Heb 11:1-3 & 8-15

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to a home that has solid foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to

conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a superior country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Sermon: "Walking Into Tomorrow" Pastor Tom Olcott

Hymn #492 "I Would Be True"

WE RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S LOVE

Call to Confession: "Let it all out: make a clean confession of any doubt or weakness of trust before God. Confronted with God's grace, our stress and pressure can be lifted; our guilt will dissolve into truth; our sin will melt into new commitments." **(Psalm 32:5)**

Confession: (in unison):

Gracious God shine a search light on my mistakes. Help me tell You of the shadows of weakness in my soul. Examine me from head to foot. Give me a full battery of stress tests. Make sure each one of us are restored and fit from the inside out. Let us never be afraid to be made new by Your inquiring love. Keep us in step with the task of forgiveness. Lead us to strengthen our integrity. Help us to keep our homes, our work, and our study open in service as sources of honest effort. Teach us to serve peace and justice day-in-and-day-out, now and forever. Through Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: "God strengthens remarkable compassion in people. God is our emergency shelter in the raging storms of life. In God's presence, we will exercise the courage of mercy." Amen.

*** Gloria Patri:**

Anthem: The Pohnpeiann Church Choir

Pastoral Prayer/ Prayers of the People (Please be seated)

Pastor Tom Olcott

Invitation to the Offering: "Join me in spreading the good news. God has caught our attention and met us more than halfway. Now, in our worship, we open the doorways from our souls. Let us bring our gifts of goodness to bless every offering with hope from the center of our abilities."

Offertory:

*** Doxology**

*** Prayer of dedication:** Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we ask you to guide our Church of the Holy Cross to new paths of mission and ministry. Bless our joyful picnic celebration and friendship with each other. Bless the ancestors of our faith and all who have given life to your compassion. Help us all to grow in faith and wisdom as a congregation sharing with people around this world. May we ourselves be instruments of reconciliation by meeting the needs of people here in Hilo, in Hawaii, and around this earth? May we invite people to embrace Your Son's joy? We offer ourselves in service. Let us always trust in the abundant fullness of God's blessings through Jesus Christ. Amen

*** Hymn: # 448 "Take My Life, God, Let it Be"**

*** Benediction and Blessing of the Picnic Meal:**

*** Choral Benediction Response: (# 580 Queen's Prayer, first verse)**

*** Extinguishing of the Alter Candles**

Postlude

Kayleen Yuda

We are pleased with warm "Aloha" to welcome to you for our All-Church Old Fashioned Hilo Style Picnic following our morning worship. Please follow our "Pied Piper" as we skip and stroll toward our festival of picnic friendship.

**HAVE FUN AND JOIN US ALL FOR OUR All Church PICNIC,
FOLLOWING WORSHIP TODAY**