

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
United Church of Christ - Congregational
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
September 15, 2013**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Pre-Service Music

**Words of Greeting & Concerns of the Church
Pastoral Welcome Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**Roberta Chu
Pastor Tom**

Prelude

Kayleen Yuda

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: We pray to you, LORD! Come and listen to our mind and hear about our struggles. Send us into every day as instruments of hope and peace. We ask you to bless our members who are away. Inspire us to offer your hospitality to everyone where there is need.

People: We sing to God with praise. God loves us! God sends us with the spirit of peace to embrace anyone who feels forgotten. Let all hearts bless the Lord and rejoice.

Leader: You are God's people. Let us open our eyes to see the needs of the world. Let every fiber of our being become a life line of abundant compassion and harmony. Let us search beyond ourselves and share with the whole people of God.

ALL: God you transcend and transform the space around us. You are in the air we breathe. You search and know the depth of our souls. Inspire us to welcome the fullness of Your grace – Let our daily choices honor your glory. AMEN.

***Hymn of Praise: 386 "The Church's One Foundation" (vs. 1, 2, and 4)**

***Invocation:**

O God of all that is and is to be, our Guide and Teacher, whose eye is even on the sparrow. You care with tenderness for this world you have shaped. We come to take hold of our personal desire to share your presence with those who are around us every day. Your loving Spirit seeks to redeem any lost and grieving people from loneliness of any despair. You provide nourishment for body and soul. You sent Christ as a servant to bind up our wounded brokenness and heal our pain of suffering. You call us to care for our community. Grant that in this hour of sacred worship we will respond to your call for discipleship. Lead us to confess our need for love; and let us find the courage and freedom to discover your amazing grace. In Jesus' name, Amen

*** Keiki Hymn # 448 "Take My Life, God Let it Be" (vs. 1, 2, and 4)**

WE SHARE THE WORDS OF GOD

Sharing with Children-

Jason Chu

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

Anthem: "As the Father Loves Me, So Have I Loved You"

by Ralph C. Schutz

Scripture: Luke 15:1-10

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable: "***What man of you***, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell

you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Sermon: “Welcomed into Repentance”

Jason Chu

*** Hymn: 283 “Spirit of the Living God” (Please sing 2 times)**

Call to Confession: Let your compassion come speedily to meet us...deliver us and forgive our sins for your name’s sake. (Based on Ps. 79:8-9)

Confession (in unison): God of grace, sometimes we want to have everything flow gently according to our own way. We want to define the world on our terms! But as we go, sometimes grudges of anger cloud our vision. We may even grumble as we trip over our expectations even when someone unexpectedly offers us hope and kindness when we anticipated rejection. We can not understand how our own hardship continues to encourage us to seek faith. Help us find mercy for ourselves and others when we share disappointment. Guide us away from cynicism, contempt, or boredom. Energize us to let our attitudes shine as searchlights of companionship giving support to those we will meet this week. Inspire us to love family, friends, neighbors, and strangers... as You love... with the forgiveness of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: “For the hurt of my people I ache!” says the Lord. Amen.

*** Gloria Patri**

Pastoral Prayer/ Prayers of the People

We share our joy as God’s people as we offer prayers of need, of burdens, of joy, of hope, and cares.

Invitation to the Offering: “Whoever if faithful in little is also faithful in much – So come now and share blessings from within your heart and soul.”

Offertory

*** Doxology**

*** Prayer of dedication:** Holy Lord, Thank You for the morning breeze, for the noon day sun, for the cool of night, and for refreshing rain. Thank You for knowing us in all our relationships as You travel with us every day. Thank You for blessing us with abilities and inviting us to make choices about values that let us breath the Spirit of Your sacred presence. Thank You for letting us walk and serve with humble compassion here in Your Church of the Holy Cross. May Your name be glorified. Receive our commitment to build our lives in mutual service as the whole people of God. In Christ’s name - Amen.

*** Sung Response: “All thing come from Thee, O Lord, And of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.**

*** Hymn: # 377 “Forward through the Ages”**

*** Benediction**

*** Choral Benediction Response:**

***Hymn # 283 “Spirit of the Living God”**

*** Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

Postlude

Kayleen Yuda

Ushers: IYAA
Child Care: Moira Tanaka
Chapel Decorations: Amy Shiroma and Clarice Suzuki
Senior Minister: Thomas Olcott ***Visiting Associate:*** Jason Chu
Minister Emeritus: Susumu Yamane
Office Manager: Dennis Lin
Choir Director: Pedro Ka'awaloa
Organist: Kayleen Yuda
Choir Accompanist: Katherine Wilson
Childcare Coordinator: Evonne Shiohita

Weekly activities at your Church of the Holy Cross

- **Choir Practice** is at 8:30am in the Sanctuary on Sundays.
- **Sunday School** at 8:45am.
- **The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga** meets in the sanctuary on Sunday at 3 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **Samoan Church** worships at 1pm on Sundays.
- **Chuukese Church** worships in BF meeting room at 1pm today.
- **Bible Study** Monday 6:30-8:00 PM
- **Gentle Yoga** Monday 9:30-10:30am (BF Meeting Room)
- **Rhythm & Life exercise class** meets Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. (BF)
- **Bible Study** Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m.
- **IYAA Bible Study** is held each Wednesday evening from 7:30 p.m.
- **Qi Goong exercise class** meets Friday morning 9-10:30 a.m. (BF)
- **Trustees Meeting today 9/15/13**
- **Deacons Meeting today 9/15/13**
- **Board of Stewardship and Missions Meeting 9/22/13**