

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS  
United Church of Christ - Congregational  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i  
Holy Cross Sunday - September 8, 2013

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

### Pre-Service Music

Words of Greeting & Concerns of the Church      Karl Kawahara  
Pastoral Welcome Sharing Christ's Peace      Pastor Tom Olcott

Prelude      Kayleen Yuda

### Call to Worship

**Leader:** Every universe within the heavens keeps telling the wonders of God. Each day grants us the foundation of hope for following Christ. Each night announces any darkness will be followed by the dawn of a new tomorrow. Yet, the unfolding universes beyond our imagination can't speak a word, and there is never a sound of doubt in the echo of their voices.

**People:** Creation's message reaches all the earth. It spins like the wind around the world. Generation after generation raises up citizen saints eager to run a race of renewed hope. Nothing is hid from God's radiant light of holy mercy. All people can embrace God's holy grace.

**Leader:** The LORD's guidance is perfect. Christ gives us new life. Sacred teachings inspire love across boundaries of division and endures forever. Rays of wisdom influence daily decisions for ordinary people. The LORD's instruction is merciful according to your needs and circumstances.

**ALL:** Our hearts surge with joy. The Lord's commands shine brightly. God's loving light penetrates the darkness of confusion. All of God's decisions are perfected as we trust compassion and fairness. By Your teachings, Lord, we are warned; by following your example in Jesus Christ, we are greatly rewarded. Amen.

### Hymn of Praise #84 "This Is the Day"

\* **Invocation:** Lord of time and space, Lord of breath and heart beat, refresh and shape the experiences of our lives. Grant us safe passage through any dangers. Open for us pathways of friendship. We hear you say "Give me your heart!" So, we ask, "How?" You say our heart is where our treasure is. May our souls find richness with people in our life? God, lift us with courageous freedom from any anxiety that chases us with dread. Your Holy Spirit invites us to see Jesus reaching out from the cross with the hand of forgiveness. You know our fears, our pains. You know our loves. You treasure our coming and our going. We are Yours at every turn and corner of each day. Amen.

\*Keiki Hymn #454 "Lord, I Want To Be a Christian"

### WE SHARE THE WORDS OF GOD

Sharing with Children      Jason Chu

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

**Anthem: "Holy, Holy"**      Arr. By Walter Ehret

### Scripture: Philemon 1-21 (*The Message*)

" I, Paul, am a prisoner for the sake of Christ, here with my brother Timothy, I write this letter to you, Philemon, my good friend and companion in this work – also your sister Apphia, a real trooper, and to the church that meets in your house. God's best to you! Christ's blessings on you!

Every time your name comes up in my prayers, I say, "Oh, thank you, God!" I keep hearing of the love and faith you have for the Master Jesus, which brims over to other Christians. And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it. Friend, you have no idea how good your love makes me feel, doubly so when I see your hospitality to fellow believers.

In line with all this I have a favor to ask of you. As Christ's ambassador and now a prisoner for him, I wouldn't hesitate to command this if I thought it necessary, but I'd rather make it a personal request (*not an imposition*).

While here in jail, I fathered a child (*adopted my hanai son*) so to speak. And here he is, hand-carrying this letter – Onesimus!

He was useless to you before; now he is useful to both of us. I am sending him back to you, but it feels like I am cutting off my right hand in doing so. I wanted in the worst way to keep him here as your stand-in to help out while I'm in jail for the Good News Gospel. But I didn't want to do anything behind your back, make you do a good deed that you had not willingly agreed to!

Maybe it's all for the best that you lost him for a while. You're getting him back now for good – and no mere slave this time, but a true Christian brother! That's what he has been to me – he'll be even more that that to you.

So if you still consider me a comrade-in-arms, welcome him back as you would me. If he damaged anything or owes you anything, chalk it up to my account. This is my personal signature – *PAUL* – and I stand behind it.

(I don't need to remind you, do I, that you owe me your very life to me?)

Do me this big favor, friend. You'll be doing it for Christ, but it will also do my heart good.

I know you well enough to know you will. You'll probably go far beyond what is written. And by the way – get a room ready for me. Because of your prayers, I fully expect to be your guest again.

Epaphras, my cellmate in the cause of Christ, says, "Hello!" Also my coworkers Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke. "All the best to you from the Master Jesus Christ."

**Sermon: "New Identities – Embedded in the Social Consciousness of Our Souls" - Advocating intentional equality across social and economic barriers for our oneness in Christ Jesus!**

**\* Hymn #456 "More Love to You, O Christ"**

**Call to Confession:** We remember the sins of our world are forgiven by Jesus Christ. None of us know all our faults. Forgive us when we sin without knowing it. Forgive our intentional and unintentional sins. Teach us with compassion not to do wrong on purpose. Lord, don't let sin gain control over our lives!" (Ps 19: 12 adapted)

**Confession: (in unison) Let our words and our thoughts be pleasing to you, LORD. You are a mighty foundation of strong and loving wisdom in which we trust. We confess our ability to make quick judgments that end up shattering relationships. Grant us courage to choose patient forgiveness as we cross through challenging passages in our experiences. Walk with us, so we can grow faithfully in our capacity to**

**speak to You truthfully about ourselves. Show us how to listen attentively, and to work cooperatively for the sake of reconciliation with all of creation. We would follow you, Jesus. Amen."**

**Assurance of Pardon:** "In Christ, you will be innocent, and not guilty, of some terrible fault. You are beloved by God's own son. His love is greater than any human sin." Amen (Based on Ps 19:13)

**\* Gloria Patri**

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

**Invitation to the Offering:** "What must I yield unto the Lord for being so good to me? I will pour out my offering...I will keep my promise where ever your people meet." Amen

**Offertory**

**\* Doxology**

**\* Prayer of dedication:** Generous and wonderful Creator, we have received amazing blessings in friendship and skill,.. from nature,.. and from co-workers in our community. Now, Holy God, we come to share what you have given us, so that we might love You more dearly, and serve You more clearly. Guide our choices, our relationships, our efforts, and our ministry in your Son's name here as Your Church of the Holy Cross, in Hilo, in Hawai'i and in all the places you send us. Amen

**\* Sung Response: *All Things come from thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.***

**\* Hymn: #537 "Christian, Rise and Act Thy Creed"**

**\* Benediction:**

**Pastor Tom**

**\* Choral Benediction Response: # 496 "Ekolu Mea Nui"**

**\* Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

**Postlude**

**Kayleen Yuda**

***Ushers:*** IYAA

***Child Care:*** Miyeko Yamane

***Chapel Decorations:*** Katada & Tadaki Families

***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 Shioshita

## **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)