

Church of the Holy Cross
United Church of Christ – Congregational
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2013

Words in printed in **bold** are spoken/sung by all.
When you see this symbol, *, please stand if able.

We Gather to Worship God

Pre-Service Music

Words of Greeting and Concerns of the Church **Reilly Narruhn**

Pastoral Welcome and Sharing the Peace of Christ **Rev. Ruth Farrell**

Prelude **Kayleen Yuda**

Advent Wreath Lighting

(Romans 8:22-25, 12:12, John 16:33) led by the Tanouye family

Reader 1: Today is a day of hope. For generations, Christians have used four candles to represent four great themes that rise from our faith in Jesus: hope, peace, joy, and love. We start with hope, because hope is always alive.

Reader 2: During Advent, we use evergreens to decorate our homes and churches because evergreens remind us to keep hope always alive in our hearts.

Reader 1: The Apostle Paul reminded the church in Rome why Christians have hope: "We know that all God created has been groaning. It is in pain as if it were giving birth to a child. The created world continues to groan even now..."

Reader 2: We also groan inside ourselves as we look forward to the time when God will adopt us as full members of his family. Then he will give us everything he has for us. He will raise our bodies and give glory to them. That's the hope we had when we were saved.

Reader 1: But hope that can be seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? We hope for what we don't have yet. So we are patient as we wait for it. ...

Reader 2: Rejoice in hope, be patient in times of trial, be faithful in prayer."

Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to
Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born to
set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re -
child and yet a king, born to reign in us for -
lease us; let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's
ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine
strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the
own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our
earth thou art; dear De - sire of ev - ery
hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf - fi - cient
na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
mer - it raise us to thy glor - rious throne.

Reader 2: We light our first candle [the first purple candle is lit] to remind us to be hopeful. Our world can be a dark and scary place and it's easy to be disheartened, but we are hopeful because Jesus "has overcome the world."

Prayer: **Holy God, giver of hope, as we begin our Advent pilgrimage, grant us the courage to hope – hope for your presence, hope for your peace, hope for your promise. Amen.**

We Share the Word of God

* ***Keiki Hymn:*** Jesus Loves Me (verse 1 only)

Hymnal #327

Sharing with Children

* ***Lord's Prayer*** (debts)

Hymnal p. 9C

Anthem

Na Leo Ni`o Lani

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-19

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"
"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "

But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Sermon: Her Only Hope

Rev. Ruth Farrell

We Respond in Word and Deed

* ***Hymn:*** Hope of the World

Hymnal #46

Call to Confession (Matthew 3:2-3)

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Confession

Merciful God, always with us, always coming:

We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored your promises; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for Jesus' coming.

[Time of silent prayer.]

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope, peace, joy, and love.

* ***Gloria Patri***

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of People

Invitation to the Offering (Hebrews 13:16)

Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Offertory

* ***Doxology***

Hymnal #780

***Prayer of Dedication**

Lord Jesus, we might not have much to give you. If we were shepherds, we would bring lambs. If we were wise men, we would do our parts. Yet what can we give you? We can give you our hearts. Amen.

***Sung Response**

All things come from thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

Communion Hymn: Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the
 O ye heights of heaven, a - dore him; an - gel
 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O

worlds be - gan to be, he is Al - pha and O -
 hosts, his prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be -
 Ho - ly Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks -

me - ga, he the source the end - ing he of the
 fore him, and ex - tol our God and King; let no
 giv - ing, and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or,

things that are, that have been and that fu - ture years shall
 tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in con - cert
 glo - ry and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to -

see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Invitation to Communion & Consecrating the Bread and the Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup

[Please come forward to commune by the center aisle. Take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup. Then, using the side aisles, form a circle around the Sanctuary.]

Hymn During Communion: O Come Let Us Adore Him
**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**We'll praise his name forever, we'll praise his name forever,
 We'll praise his name forever, Christ the Lord!**

**We'll give him all the glory, we'll give him all the glory,
 We'll give him all the glory, Christ the Lord!**

**For he alone is worthy, for he alone is worthy,
 For he alone is worthy, Christ the Lord.**

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response:** Blessed Be the Tie That Binds Hymnal #393

***Extinguishing the Altar Candles**

Postlude

- Ushers:** Anne Sadayasu, Eric Tanouye, Margaret Torigoe, Ethel Yoshimasu, Jennie Kondo
- Child Care:** Stefan Tanouye
- Chapel Decorations:** Sachie Ohata and Ruth Ohata
- 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.
- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei – Hilo** worships in the BF meeting room this morning.
- **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
- **Rhythm & Life exercise class** meets Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. (BF)
- **Bible Study** Wednesday on break
- **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)
- **Toastmasters** meet in the Lounge Tuesdays at 12pm