

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

November 24, 2013

Thanksgiving Sunday

Stewardship Commitment Sunday

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing together

Words of Greeting

Barbara Iwami

Pastoral greeting and Sharing Peace and well being of our fellowship

(Gathering of Prayer Concerns will take place at this time)

Pastor Larry

Prelude "Simple Gifts" by Sewell

Kayleen Yuda

Call to Worship

Reader: We gather here this morning to offer our worship in thanksgiving for the many blessings of God's eternal care that come to us in the fullness of faith and fellowship. We come filled with hopes and expectations; we come with needs and longings, we come with all that we harbor deep within and we come with all that flows from us in praise. Come; let us share this time of worship, let us open our hearts and minds, let us lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving.

Everyone: We have come to our church home to share in the many dimensions of faith and fellowship. In this season of thanksgiving we gladly gather to offer our thanks to God for the bounty, miracle and mystery of blessings bestowed upon us. Come; let us be united in faith, let us lift our voices in praise. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise:** We Gather Together

***Invocation:**

Reader: Eternal God, praise be to you! Embrace us now in your arms of ever-lasting love and mercy. Pour out your Spirit upon us that we may breathe deeply of its life-giving power. Guard, guide and uphold us as we strive to be and become your people this day and always, O Lord our God. Amen.

*** Keiki Hymn:** #4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Sharing with Children

Anthem: IYAA

Scripture:

A Thanksgiving Litany
(Psalms 95 and 100)

Reader: O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into the Lord's presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to the Lord with songs of praise!

**Everyone: We lift a joyful noise to the Lord, from all the lands!
We serve the Lord with gladness!
We come into the Lord's presence with singing!
We know that the Lord is God!**

For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In God's hands are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are God's also.
The sea is God's, for God made it;
God's hands formed the dry land.

**It is God that made us, and we are God's creation;
we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.
We enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and God's courts with praise!**

O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For the Lord is our God,
we are God's people!

**We Give thanks to God, we bless God's name!
For the Lord is good;
The Lord's steadfast love endures for ever,
and the Lord's faithfulness to all generations. Amen**

Sermon:

God Does Provide

Matthew 6: 25-32

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

(note: please remain seated as we enter our time of prayer)

Hymn: #422

Come, Ye Thankful People Come

The Prayers

Call to Prayer:

Reader: The graciousness of God surrounds us and fills us. In the great mystery of divine presence in our lives we are blessed by miracles great and small. The bounty of the earth and the bounty of love present in our lives bring the assurance that God holds all life in His care and keeping. In the quietness of prayer we can open our hearts, share our burdens, give thanks and seek renewal.

Unison Sabbath Prayer

Most Gracious God, we quiet ourselves in prayer. We bow in reverence and praise. We acknowledge and confess our estrangement from you, from others, and even from ourselves. We have a profound need for your presence in our lives. We ask, O Lord, for your loving care. You alone know what is secreted in our hearts. We pray for your compassionate grace, forgiving love and healing strength. We offer our thanks for the bounty of the earth, the joy of love, the assurance of hope. Hear our prayers, O Lord.

Our Silent Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

{you are invited to offer this prayer in the words most familiar to you}

Prayer Response (hymn #488, first verse)

**Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change, He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Reader: The ways of God are beyond our knowing yet they touch us dearly and deeply. The companion to prayer is faith – faith that God will provide. In your faith let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with kind affection; outdo one another in showing honor. In this you will be blessed.

***Gloria Patri**

Our Stewardship and Commitment

Reader: Ours is the joy of receiving gifts from God every day. God's abundance is overwhelming! We are blessed with the bounty of the earth and with the bounty of love that comes to us through the lives of so many people. Here, in our church, we see and we become the visible Body of the Christ as we share the fullness of faith and fellowship. Today we hold dear our hope and vision for the coming year. Today we seek to respond to the summons of God's Spirit as we affirm our desire to share the gifts of God given to us. Today we act in thanksgiving and faith.

Reader: We know there are varieties of gifts,

Everyone: but the same Spirit;

Rev. Walter: We know there are varieties of Christian service,

Everyone: but the same Lord;

Reader: We know there are varieties of faithful work within our church

Everyone: but it is the same God who inspires them all in each of us. To each of us is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Rev. Walter: All our faithful work is inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Everyone: Affirming our desire to be and become the visible Body of the Christ, and to share the wonderful gifts of God, we consecrate ourselves, and the fruit of our faith and labor, to all the Holy Spirit summons us to do as The Church of the Holy Cross.

Offertory "Trusting Thee" by Broughton **Kayleen Yuda**
(please place your Faith Commitment in the Offering Tray)

Doxology: # 780 or # 781

Blessing and Consecration

Reader: Let us ask God's Blessing upon our gifts and our faith commitments.

Everyone: Holy Spirit of God, we ask now that you bless and consecrate all that we have brought this day, and all that we will share as a family of faith throughout the coming year

We affirm to each other as the diverse family of God gathered here our faithful desire: That Christ dwell in our hearts through faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth of our faith and of the love of God, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to God, who by the power at work within us, is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

[The text for our Litany of Commitment was drawn from

1 Corinthians 12:4-12 and Ephesians 3:14-21]

***Hymn: #419** Now Thank We all Our God

***Benediction**

*** Choral Benediction Response:** # 580 "O Kou Aloha No" (Queen's Prayer)

***Extinguishing Altar Candles**

Postlude

Kayleen Yuda

Ushers: Anne Sadayasu, Eric Tanouye, Margaret Torigoe,
Ethel Yoshimasu, Jennie Kondo

Child Care: Laura Ota

Chapel Decorations: Connie Yoshiyama

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.
- **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
- **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 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 and the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month in the Lounge, 5:30-7pm.

**The Hanging of the Greens will be
Saturday, November 30, 2013 at 9pm.**

Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, Nov 26 at 7pm
Hilo United Methodist Church

We Gather Together

Netherlands Folk Song
Tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934

KREMSER 12.11.12.11.
Netherlands Folk Song, 1626
Arr. by Edward Kremser, 1838-1914

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing, He chas - tens and
2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, Or - dain - ing, main -
3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant, And pray that thou

has - tens his will to make known; The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis -
tain - ing his king - dom di - vine, So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were
still our de - fend - er wilt be. Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u -

ress - ing. Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
win - ning; Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine.
la - tion. Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!