

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

*Third Sunday of Advent*      *December 15, 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*

*Pastoral Welcome and Sharing the Peace of Christ*

*Prelude*

*Advent Wreath Lighting* (Luke 2:10, Proverbs 17:22, Philippians 4:4)

Reader 1: Today is a day of joy. 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 continue our Advent journey with joy, because joy is contagious.

Reader 2: During Advent, we decorate our homes and churches with bells because pealing bells grab our attention and remind to spread the news that “good news of great joy for all people – Jesus Christ is born!”

Reader 1: As the Proverb reminds us: “light in a messenger’s eye brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.”

\*Hymn: Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re-ceive her  
Joy to the world! the Sav-ior reigns; let all their songs em-  
No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-fest the  
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions  
King; let ev-ery heart pre-pare him room, and  
poy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re-  
ground; he comes to make his bless-ings flow far  
prove the glo-ries of his right-eous-ness, and  
heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven and na-ture  
peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing  
as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his  
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na-ture sing.  
joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.  
found, far as far as the curse is found.  
love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.

Reader 2: We light our third candle, a surprising pink candle [the pink candle is lit], to remind us to “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say it: rejoice!”

Prayer: **Dear God, cradle of joy, in the height of our Advent walk, grant us the audacity to experience joy – joy in the face of apathy, joy in the face of sorrow, joy in the face of uncertainty. Amen.**

***We Share the Word of God***

\*Keiki Hymn: I’ve Got Hope, Peace, Joy, Love Like A...

**I’ve got hope like a wellspring, I’ve got hope like a wellspring,  
I’ve got hope like a wellspring in my soul. (Since twice.)  
I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river,**

I've got peace like a river in my soul. *(Since twice.)*

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. *(Since twice.)*

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul. *(Since twice.)*

*Sharing with Children*

\**Lord's Prayer* (debts)

Hymnal p. 9C

[Please stand, if you are able, and join hands with those near you as we pray.]

*Anthem*

Na Leo Ni`o Lani

*Scripture:* Luke 1:39-56

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

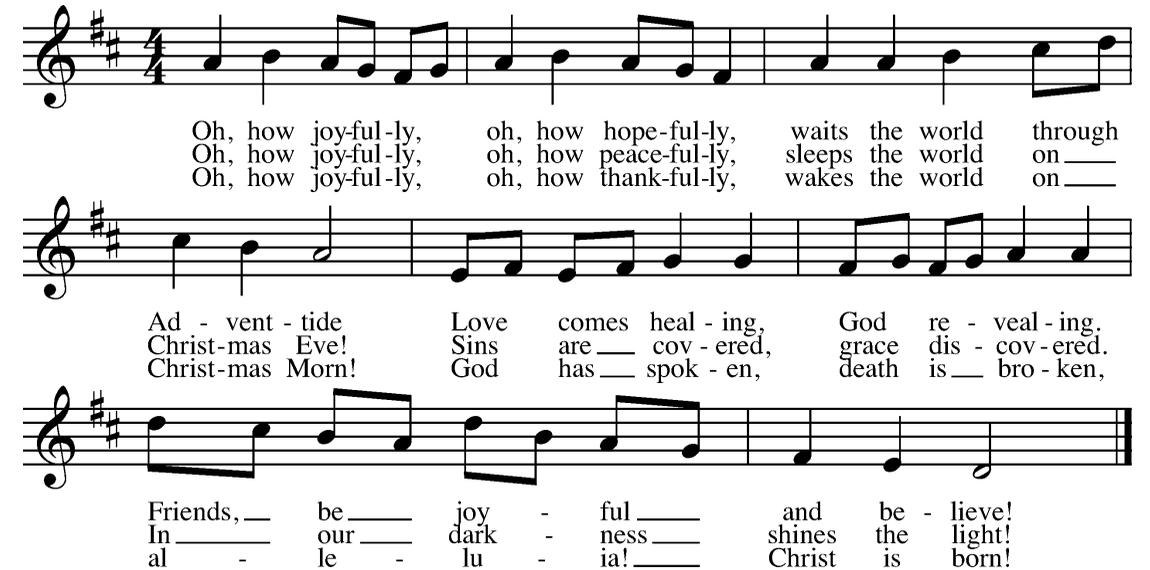
And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

*Sermon:* Leap for Joy!

***We Respond in Word and Deed***

\**Hymn:* Oh, How Joyfully



*Call to Confession*

We know how God wants us to live. We also know how often we fail to do so. Therefore, let us confess so we can receive God's grace, which cleanses us from our sin.

*Confession (in unison)*

**Holy God, we confess we often fail to be joyful. We are quickly frustrated by life's annoyances. We are grumpy when things don't go our way. We often we choose to be melancholy. Help us, please, not to let our circumstances dictate our feelings, but to find ways to be joyful at all times. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now we need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Through Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

\**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* (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Each one of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a joyful giver.

*Offertory*

\**Doxology*

Hymnal #780

\**Prayer of Dedication*

Generous God, you have given us all we have. Joyfully we respond to your love and generosity by giving our tithes and offerings. Use them to bring joy to the lives of others. Amen.

\**Sung Response*

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

\**Closing Hymn: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Hymnal #129

\**Benediction* (Romans 15:13)

\**Benediction Response: Go Tell It on the Mountain* (chorus only)

Hymnal #154

\**Extinguishing the Altar Candles*

*Postlude*

***E Komo Mai/Welcome***

We're glad you're here! All are welcome at Church of the Holy Cross (United Church of Christ).

***Leading Us in Worship Today***

Supply Pastor: Rev. Ruth Farrell

Lay Reader: Jayson Rekis

Advent Candlelighting: Sandy Mitipok Family

Organist: Kayleen Yuda

Choir Director: Pedro Kaawaloa

Choir Accompanist: Katherine Wilson

Ushers: Moira Tanaka, Newton Chu, Karl Kawahara, Esther Kodani

Child Care: Tammy Nagami

Childcare Coordinator: Evonne Shiohita

Sanctuary Decorations: Bev Dodo

Minister Emeritus: Susumu Yamane

***This Week at 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 1:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei – Hilo** worships in the BF meeting room this morning.
- **Samoa Church** worships at 1pm on Sundays.
- **Chuukese Church** worships in BF meeting room at 1pm today.
- **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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month in the Lounge, 5:30-7pm.
- **Bell Choir** at 3pm in J's Café on Saturdays

***Coming Up at Church of the Holy Cross***

Sing-Along-Messiah **Sunday, December 22, 3 pm**. Bring your own score or borrow one at the door.