

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
440 West Lanikaula Street
Hilo, Hawaii**

December 29, 2013

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Pre-Service Music-Congregational singing together

Words of Greeting

Sue Smith

Pastoral Greeting and Sharing of Peace and Well-being of our fellowship
(Gathering of Prayer Concerns will take place at this time)

Pastor Larry Walter

Prelude

Call To Worship

Reader: As we worship this morning let us yet be filled with all the joy of Christmas Day. Let us offer our worship to God for the blessings of light and life that have come into our world and into our lives. Let us hold fast to all the Spirit has brought in these recent days that we might enter the New Year within the grace of God. Come, let us share this time together and let us affirm our faith as those who gladly proclaim the birth of the Christ into our hearts, into our hopes and into our world

Everyone: Giving thanks for the abiding joy that is of Christmas we gather here this morning as those who have welcomed the birth of the Christ once more into our lives. We give thanks for the blessings of God's presence and Spirit and for the hope that draws us ever forward. Come, let us worship together in the name of the Prince of Peace and then let us go forth in His name to share our joy with all the world.

May the glow of this sacred season remain with us to bring light to our path in this New Year. May the light of the Christ Candle bring warmth and assurance as we strive to be people of faith. Amen

Hymn of Praise: # 63 "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine" (verses 1 – 4)

Invocation

Reader: We praise you, O God of mystery and miracle, for the gift of the Christ. In His presence you have opened the eyes of our hearts that we might see, you have healed the brokenness of our bodies that we might dance with joy in our souls, you have embraced us in abiding love that we might know forgiveness and grace. Your promises are sure and your love is steadfast. Be present in our midst this day, come to us Emmanuel. Amen.

* **Keiki Hymn: #159 "As with Gladness Those of Old" (verses 1 -4)**

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Sharing with Children

Woody Kita

Anthem: International Young Adult Association (IYAA)

Scripture: Psalm 121 and 40 (see insert)

Reader: In wonder I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does our help come?

Everyone: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let our feet be moved, he who keeps us will not slumber. Behold, he who protects us will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is our keeper; the Lord is the shade ever guarding us
The sun shall not smite us by day, nor the moon by night.

**The Lord will keep us from all evil; he will keep our lives safe.
The Lord will keep our going out and our coming in
from this time forth and for evermore.**

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He draws us up from desolation, He brings us safely out of the miry bogs of life, and sets our feet upon a rock, making our steps secure. Amen

Sermon: "The Faithful Journey Continues"

Pastor Larry Walter

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS 2014

Recognition

Commission

Response of the Congregation

We give thanks to God for your willingness to share your faith, vision, dedication and labor with our church. We covenant with you to be supportive of your discipleship; as led by the Holy Spirit we will journey with you along our many paths of faith; we will share our Christian faith and vision with you that together we may serve well in the name of the Christ. Amen

Hymn: # 25 Our God Our Help In Ages Past verses 1 – 4

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

The Morning Prayers:

Call to Prayer:

Reader: The sacredness of this season now seeks to remain in our hearts and minds as we begin a New Year. The Spirit of God yet speaks to us and touches us in the welcome reminder that we have once again proclaimed to the world the birth of the Lord of Life,

the Prince of Peace. We have declared it is the Lord who comes with glad tidings into each generation. It is He who binds up our wounds, sets us free from oppression, comforts us and anoints us with gladness. In the quietness of prayer we affirm our faith and open our lives to the miracle and mystery of God. Let us pray:

Unison Sabbath Prayer

Eternal God, we open our hearts to you in faithful prayer. In these quiet moments we seek your sustaining grace and forgiving love. Help us, O Lord, to hold close to miracle and mystery as we journey into the New Year. Be our guardian and guide as we meet the challenges that will come every day. Give ease to our burdens, forgive our transgressions against you and those in our circles of life, heal and renew us, O Lord, we pray.

Our Silent Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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

Choral Unison 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:

The Lord of Life assures us that He has been anointed to bring comfort and gladness to our afflictions, healing to the brokenness we experience in the depth of our lives, guidance and comfort as we meet the demands of daily life. It is the Lord who places a protective mantle upon our shoulders; it is He who declares that we are the Righteous of God; it is He who comes to us with a strength-giving hope.

***Gloria Patri**

Invitation to the Offering

Reader: In the very depth of our faith we affirm that God provides us with every blessing in abundance. In our sharing of labor, love and faith we are able to do far more than we could ever imagine. Let us rejoice in the goodness of God with thanksgiving in our hearts

Offertory

Doxology: # 780 or # 781

Blessing and Consecration

Everyone: Eternal God of all light and hope, we ask your blessing upon these gifts of the fruit of our labor and the love of our hearts. We bring our gifts in thanksgiving for all the cherished blessings of life which you bestow upon us in this Holy Season. We ask your continued blessing upon our lives that we might always be worthy of the gift of the Christ. Amen

***Hymn: # 573 "Lead On Eternal Sovereign" (verses 1 – 3)**

***Benediction**

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

***Extinguishing Altar Candles**

Postlude

Announcements

No Sunday School until January 5 - See you then!

Pastor Mary Olney-Loyd and her husband, Gary, will arrive on Friday January 3 at 5:19 on Hawaiian flight # 142. If you are able come to the airport to welcome her to Hilo.

Sunday January 5, communion with Reverend Buck preaching and our litany of welcome for our interim pastor Mary Olney-Loyd.

January 15, Pastor Mary's First day on staff.

January 19 Pastor Mary's first Sunday in the pulpit.

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