

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
Second Sunday of Advent – December 8, 2013

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing together**

**Words of Greeting**

**Reader: Margaret Torigoe**

**Pastoral Welcome Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**Rev. Ron Fujiyoshi**

**Prelude**

**Star Bells**

**Call to Worship/Candle Lighting/Opening Hymn/Invocation**

(Luke 2:14, John 16:33, John 20:29)

**Choir Family**

**Reader 1:** Today is a day of peace. 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 peace, because peace is one of the gifts of Jesus.

**Reader 2:** During Advent, we decorate our homes and churches with angels because of the gift of peace proclaimed by a heavenly host of angels the night of Jesus' birth: "Glory to God in the highest, and, on earth, peace to those on whom God's favor rests."

**Reader 1:** Towards the end of his earthly life, Jesus offered comfort to his disciples (both those who had the benefit of seeing him face to face and those

of us who are "blessed because we have believed in what we have not seen"). He said,

**Reader 2:** "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Let your hearts not be troubled or afraid."

\***Hymn:** # 116 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1, 2 and 3)

**Reader 1:** We light our second candle [the second purple candle is lit] to remember the peace Jesus has given us and to prompt us to work for peace in our communities.

Prayer: **Holy God, source of peace, as we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to be at peace – peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our communities. Amen.**

\* **Keiki Hymn:** # 106 "My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise"

\* ***All who are able please rise.***

**WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Sharing with Children**

Woody Kita

**Lord's Prayer** (using "debts" and "debtors") [*in unison*]

**Anthem: Carol of the Children - John Rutter**

Na Leo Ni'o Lani

**Scripture**

**Isaiah 11:1-10 The Branch From Jesse**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge

and fear of the Lord-- and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt, and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

### **Matthew 3:1-12 John the Baptist Prepares the Way**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to

carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

**Sermon:** "Advent, Repentance and Shalom"

**Pastor Ron Fujiyoshi**

**Lord's Prayer** (using "debts" and "debtors") [*in unison*]

**WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED**

**\*Hymn:** #129 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"- Pilgrim Hymnal

### **The Prayers:**

#### **Call to Confession:**

"I am confident of this, that God who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Christ Jesus."

#### **Confession (in unison):**

**May God be my witness, how I long with you to embrace the compassion of Christ Jesus. May we overcome our faults and remove our offenses? May our love overflow with mercy? May we let go of any lingering anger and resentment and seek peace through reconciliation with any and all enemies. May the fullness of compassionate insight help us determine what is best, so that every day with Christ we may be blameless of sin and filled with hospitality and grace for all people? May we shine the light of God's grace in our words and actions? Amen**

#### **Assurance of Pardon:**

I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will bring it to completion... How wonderful a blessing is this: "All of you share God's grace with me?" (Philippians 1:7)

**\*Gloria Patri** (An inclusive language version of the Gloria is # 759 in the Hymnal. The traditional version is: "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.")

**Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People** (be seated)      **Pastor Ron Fujiyoshi**  
*"Bring all your burdens and anxieties to God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus, for God cares about you."*

**Invitation to the Offering:**

Let us be transformed in our faith, devoting ourselves to use our energy in service with all by the grace of God. Let us follow Jesus who for the sake of our salvation humbled himself in service and was obedient according to the will of God.

**Offertory:** "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" by Denton      **Kayleen Yuda**

**Doxology:** # 780 or # 781

**\*Prayer of Dedication:**

Holy Creator, we uncover and reveal the treasured blessings of our daily activity in your presence. Guide our fellowship in Hilo to serve compassionately as your disciples. Let us remember those who out of the necessities of their lives require our compassion. We seek your blessings for the help our special Christmas Fund will have in support of United Church of Christ Ministry. With thankful hearts, we are yours for ministry and mission. Let us grow in faith as we share "Lokahi" with your world, in Jesus' name Amen.

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

**\*Hymn:** #151 "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

**\*Benediction**      **Pastor Ron Fujiyoshi**

**\* Choral Benediction Response:** Hymn # 146 Hawaiian Refrain "Nu Oli"

**\*Extinguishing Altar Candles**

**Postlude** "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" by Lorenz      **Kayleen Yuda**

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

**Child Care:** Barbara Iwami

**Chapel Decorations:** Jean Kita (Mem.)

**Supply Minister:** Ron Fujiyoshi

**Minister Emeritus:** Susumu Yamane

**Office Manager:** Dennis Lin

**Choir Director:** Pedro Ka'awaloa

**Organist:** Kayleen Yuda

**Choir Accompanist:** Katherine Wilson

**Childcare Coordinator:** Evonne Shiohita

**"E Komo Mai"** - All people are welcome here at Church of the Holy Cross, UCC. We greet all visitors, guests, and friends and invite you to participate in the life of our Holy Cross Church family. If you would like to inquire about church membership please speak to one of our Deacons.

If you would like to learn more about how our national United Church of Christ ministers around the world go to [UCC.org](http://UCC.org) - there, you will find information on disaster relief, church life, worship, and ecumenical cooperation.

**Hilo Community Chorus Songs and Carols of Christmas Today at 3PM in the sanctuary.** Concert is free but donations accepted. Donations for the food basket of non perishable food will be collected.

### **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 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.
- **Samoan 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.

### **Other activities at Church of the Holy Cross**

**Sunday School** for all ages at 8:45 a.m.

Pre-school to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with Malia Mattos and Amy Yamaki in rm. 5

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade with Jeanne Hernandez and Eric Tanouye in the nursery

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade with James Yoshiyama in the library

- **Christmas Fund Offerings** are being dedicated today. Your gifts help provide supplemental pensions, gifts and health insurance to retired clergy and emergency grants to individuals and families in crisis. Your generosity helps us to honor our covenant with those who served the UCC. Thank you for your generosity.
- **CHURCH COUNCIL meeting** today following the membership meeting in the lounge.
- **Christmas Caroling:** today at 2 pm. Bring Christmas joy and music to the home-bound. A light meal will be served afterwards.
- **Sing along Messiah Sunday December 22, 3PM.** Come join in and sing praises for this joyous holiday season.