

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
January 5, 2014
Service of Holy Communion
Epiphany Celebration

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing together

Words of Greeting, Celebrations & Concerns of the Church

Reader: Sue Smith

Pastoral Welcome Sharing the Peace of

Rev. Charles Buck

Prelude: “Pastorale” by Zipoli

Kayleen Yuda

Call to Worship: (Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ)
- alternating Puna and Hamakua sides reading responsively)

Puna: We believe in you, O God. Eternal Spirit. God our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

Hamakua: You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

Puna: You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

Hamakua: You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

All: You promise to all who trust your forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

*** Hymn of Praise:** # 160 Jesus the Light of the World” verses 1 – 3

***Invocation:** God, we sing with the voices of early morning birds whose songs proclaim your glory. We overflow with sunrise happiness. As morning gilds the sky, we resolve once more to embrace the way of Jesus’ teaching. May Christ’s wisdom fill us with courage and kindness. May we be aware of your compassion as we face difficult and demanding challenges. May we share your friendship wherever we are, day by day, throughout all of 2013. May we pass on the gifts you’ve given to us. We greet you with love, God of the whole world. Amen

Song of Welcome: “You are Welcome Here” chorus and verse 1

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

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

LITURGY FOR THE BLESSING OF THE INTERIM PASTOR

Moderator (Ms. Sue Smith): Members and friends of The Church of the Holy Cross, we are all called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves to the God of all creation in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. Today we give thanks to God for the Ministry that God has given to us, and for the faithful service of our members, friends and former pastors, most recently, Pastor Tom Olcott. And now we begin a new part of the journey with our interim, Pastor Mary Olney-Loyd. We ask God's guidance for our ministry as we join together in prayer.

ALL: Gracious God, You have blessed and sustained us for many years and have given us life together as a Christian community. Be with us now, we pray, as we enter this in-between time. Comfort us as we grieve the past or look anxiously to the future. Bless us and guide us as we reflect upon our history and dream, dreams about our future, so that we might be prepared for the next stage in this congregation's life. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Moderator The transition time between installed pastors is an exciting and meaningful time in the life of our congregation. This is not a time for just maintaining the status quo, but it is a time for preparation, a time when we can come to understand more clearly who we are, who we want to become and what God intends our ministry and life together to be

Congregation: At this time of transition we pledge that what is past is past, to cherish what has been good, and to let go of what we no longer need. We pledge to reach for the future that is coming, for we believe that God is leading us toward it.

Interim Pastor (Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd): As we begin this interim time together, we will establish new relationships. I have been called as your interim pastor, to be God's servant among you during this special time, until that time when you call a settled pastor. I pledge to you my commitment as a minister of the gospel among you: I will pray for you, listen to you, assist you in the tasks of this interim period, encouraging and challenging you as we move through this time together. May God bless us and lead us as we together embark on this interim journey. And may we view this time as a time of learning and growth as God's spirit instructs and prepares us for the future mission and ministry of the church in this place.

Reverend Buck: Let us pray. Eternal God, we thank you for your faithful leading of this church throughout the years. We thank you for the ways in which you continue to bless, challenge, forgive, and invite them to be your faithful people. We offer our gratitude for having Pastor Mary partner with them in ministry during this in-between time. We thank you for her gifts, and faith, and vision, and for all the ways you have made her ready for this task. Bless her and this church family as they seek to live out the promises they have made this day. Empower us all by your Holy Spirit and lead us all in the steps of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: # 18 "Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer" verses 1 & 2

Sharing with Children

Joyce Nakamoto

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

Anthem: Amazing Grace arr. Staton

Na Leo Ni'o Lani

Scripture: John 1: 10-18

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Sermon: "Small Presents, Big Presence"

Reverend Charles Buck

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

***Hymn:** # 126 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" vs. 1 & 2

Invitation to the Offering: The seed of our faith grows in us every time we trust God. Like all plants rooted in good soil, we reach to the light for nourishment and life. May our souls blossom and then yield the fruit of compassion and understanding. May those around us "taste and see that the Lord is good."

The Prayers

Call to Confession: God is not pleased when we ignore the pain of suffering and try not to see it. When God takes up residence in our life, we forget about our own wants and wishes. We focus on our inner light - on what God wants. We share what God has freely given us – healing love and forgiveness!

Confession: (in unison) Living God, I want your love and justice to live in me this New Year. I am turning the corner into a life of hope. I am mapping my way on your road to right living. May the light of your new day reveal my path ahead. I will do my best to show your mercy and your grace. In the year ahead, let me not take advantage of anyone or anything in your creation. Please give me an assignment to work for your kingdom here in Hilo. May the star that shines through Jesus' words guide me every time I need to make a choice about the direction of my life. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: We have things to do and places to go and persons to love as we walk each day with Christ. God gives us the grace to become the people Jesus calls us to be. Amen.

***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.")

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People (be seated)

Reverend Charles Buck

Voicing prayers of need, of burdens, of hopes, and cares.

We share our joy as God's people.

"Bring all your burdens and anxieties to God,

Father of our Lord Jesus, for God cares about you."

Offertory: "Nocturne in G" by Stickles

Doxology: # 780 or # 781

***Prayer of Dedication:** Dear God, we are gathered as people united with Christ in baptism and faith and by our common humanity. We want to use the skill and ability with which you have blessed us. We come to your Holy Cross to receive the gift of your Holy Spirit. Receive from us the work of our hands,... our minds,...our hearts. Let us become people who use what we have to bless all people in your Son's name. Amen.

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

Hymn of Communion Preparation: # 346 "Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken."

Invitation

Reverend Charles Buck

Consecrating the Bread

Consecrating Cup

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Please come forward, as you are able, to share in the bread of life and the cup of our salvation.

Let us sing together the "The First Nowell" #139

Following communion please form a fellowship circle around the sanctuary.

*** Benediction:**

Reverend Charles Buck

*** Choral Benediction Response** #146 Nu Oli – chorus only

*** Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

Postlude: "March in D" by Mendelssohn-Arr. Blake

Kayleen Yuda

Please join us for refreshments in J's Café after worship.

Ushers: Eileen Shiraishi, Joyce Nakamoto,

Anita Matthews, Michi Koizumi

Flowers: Eric Tanouye, Kyle Nakayama Families

Childcare: Shirley Miyake

Minister Emeritus: Susumu Yamane

Office Manager: Dennis Lin

Organist: Kayleen Yuda

Choir Director: Pedro Kaawaloa

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 - there, you will find information on disaster relief, church life, worship, and ecumenical cooperation.

Other activities at Church of the Holy Cross

- **Choir Practice** is at 8:30am in the Sanctuary on Sundays.
- **Sunday School** resumes January 12, 2014.
- **The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga** meets in the sanctuary on Sunday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei – Hilo** worships in the BF mtg. room
- **Samoa Church** worships at 12pm 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.
- **Prostate Cancer Support Group** 1st Thursday of the month, 9am in the Lounge
- **Bell Choir** every Saturday at 3pm in J's Café