

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
March 16, 2014
WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing together

Words of Greeting, Celebrations & Concerns of the Church Jane Kawazoe

Pastoral Welcome Sharing the Peace of Christ Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd

Prelude Kayleen Yuda

****All who are able, please rise. Please speak in unison where text is bold.***

***Call to Worship:**

Christ of the comfortable, you would call us from our security and sameness,
down that unknown path which leads to God's heart:

with trust, we would place our hands in yours, and follow.

Companion of our sleepless nights, you would beckon us out of the shadows of our
fears, calling us to bring our doubts and questioning hearts along:

**with humility, we would listen to those answers we do not expect, or even
understand.** Word which creates out of nothingness,

you fill us with life where we see emptiness, you keep your promises of presence
and guidance **may your grace transform us into faithful disciples.**

***Invocation (Unison)**

Beckoning God, you call us to journey with you into the unknown future.

**Help us to respond in faithful obedience. Strengthen us for what lies
ahead so that, secure in the knowledge of your loving care, we, like
Abraham and Sarah, may be a blessing for all creation. Amen.**

***Hymn of Praise: #25 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" vs. 1-5**

***Confession:**

Looking out on the many challenges of life, O God,
is often like seeing an impassable mountain or a
wide, deepening sea hindering our way forward.
Often we remain discouraged and stay where we have always been.

Sung response: #25 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" vs 6
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last,
And our eternal home!

We confess a disbelief in our own hearts—
the place you live and know so well—
not listening for or seeing lifegiving possibilities
in the major decisions we need to make.

Sung response: (same as above)

And so we confess our timidity;
the fear of failure,
the fear of another's conflicting opinion
or discouraging response.
We confess fear of dying even if it is for the sake of truly living.

Sung response: (same as above)

***Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

L: Friends in Christ,
the God who calls us to take bold steps outward,
is the One who journeys closely within.

P: In God, there is welcome, courage, companionship,
constant forgiveness, and renewed strength.
Thanks be to God. 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."**

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Sharing with Children

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

Solo: "O Rest in the Lord" Soloist: Gerdine Markus

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9

Hymn: #466 "Unto the Hills We Lift Our Longing Eyes"

Scripture: Psalm 121

Sermon: "Blessed to be a Blessing"

Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

***Hymn: "You Are My Hiding Place" (insert)**

The Prayers

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People (be seated)

Call for Offering: As we give today, may we do so in love, in joy, in prayer, with thanksgiving for blessings and guidance and with a generous heart.

Offertory

Kayleen Yuda

Doxology: # 780 or # 781

***Prayer of Dedication: Guiding God, with thanks we offer the gifts of our hands and the fruits of our labors. Accept them as expressions of our response to the life and love you give us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

Sung response:

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

***Closing Hymn: #410 "If You but Trust in God to Guide You"**

*** Benediction**

*** Choral Benediction Response**

*** Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

Postlude

Kayleen Yuda

Ushers: IYAA

Flowers: Carolyn Lum-Bellem

Childcare: Cindy Debus

Interim Minister: Mary Olney-Loyd

Minister Emeritus: Susumu Yamane

Office Manager: Dennis Lin

Organist: Kayleen Yuda

Choir Director: Pedro Kaawaloa

Choir Accompanist: Katherine Wilson

Childcare Coordinator: Evonne Shioshita

"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 or Pastor Mary.

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.

This Week at Church of the Holy Cross

- **Choir Practice** is at 8:30am in the Sanctuary on Sundays.
- **Sunday School** at 8:45am for Children and Youth
- **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 this morning.

- **Samoan Church** worships at 12pm on Sundays.
- **Chuukese Church** worships in BF meeting room at 1pm today.
- **First Marshallese Assembly of God**, worships in the Sanctuary today at 4pm.
- **Gentle Yoga** Monday (BF Meeting Room) on break
- **Rhythm & Life exercise class** meets Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. (BF)
- **Bible Study** Monday on break for Lenten Study
- **Bible Study** Tues on break for Lenten Study
- **9:30am Wednesday Lenten Study will meet in the Lounge for “Unbinding Your Heart” Lenten Study.**
 - 5:30pm Salad Supper-bring something to go in a Chef’s Salad, in **J’s Café**
 - 6:15pm Study begins
- **IYAA Bible Study** is held each Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m.
- **Qi Goong exercise class** meets Friday morning 9-10:30 a.m. (BF)
- **Prostate Cancer Support Group** 2nd Thursday of the month, 12pm in the BF.
- **Ron Fujiyoshi, Ohana Ho’opakele** meets in the Lounge every Thursday at 9am.
- **Bell Choir** every Saturday at 1pm in J’s Café