

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
December 14, 2014

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**  
**Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing together**

<b>Words of Greeting</b>	Jayson Rekis
<b>Pastoral Welcome</b>	Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd
<b>Prelude: “Oh, Come, Emmanuel” by Held</b>	Kayleen Yuda

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

**\*Call to Worship: (unison)**

One: Voices cry out from the wilderness:

**Many: Prepare the way of the Holy One! Prepare for the glory of God to be revealed, and God’s peace to rise like the dawn among us.**

One: This peace may not be easy, if it means that mountains will come crashing down, and rough places will be ground to dust, to make a way.

**Many: Yet God once restored Jerusalem.**

One: Gathering exiles in his arms, carrying them home in her bosom.

**Many: Peace has happened before.**

One: Today, on this second Sunday of Advent, we light a candle of peace, as a sign of the approaching sunrise, a reminder that we are called to prepare the way for peace:

**Many: Making a highway through the desert of the world’s violence, comforting God’s people, speaking tenderly to those who are wounded.**

One: And though the way to peace may be hard, peace itself is coming toward us. God comes with might, with an outstretched arm, reaching up, helplessly, from a manger.

Loving God, you provide a mighty peace, even in the midst of trouble. As we light these candles, place your deep peace in us, that we may help to make a way, risking peace each day, for your sake, and the sake of your realm of *shalom*. We pray this in the name of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit who guides us. Amen.

<b>*Lighting of the Advent Candles</b>	<b>James &amp; Connie Yoshiyama &amp; granddaughter Angela Martin</b>
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**\*Prayer of Praise**

**\* Hymn of Praise: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” see Insert**

**\*Unison Prayer for Forgiveness (unison)**

**We come to worship you, yet our hearts and minds may be on many other things. Forgive us. Forgive us when we forget you in our daily lives. Help us turn once again toward you, the source of all hope and peace. Still our hearts and minds so we may be renewed by this worship. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

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

God comes with comfort and compassion. God longs to bring us peace. Where the way is steep, God levels the path. Where there is rough terrain; God smooths the way. Thanks be to God for the road to hope & peace is prepared for us. Amen.

**\*Gloria Patri**

**WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Special Music: First Hilo Marshallese Assembly of God Church**

**Time with Children**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

**Anthem: "O Come Emmanuel"**

*Na Leo Nio Lani*

*Arr. John Jacob Niles*

**Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11**

**Sermon: "God's Anyway Love"**

**WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED**

**Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People (be seated)**

**Hymn: #101 "Comfort, Comfort O My People"**

**Introduction to Offering**

The Hebrew word *shalom* is rich in meaning. It can include peace of mind, world peace, making peace with someone, physical well-being, and even systems of financial justice and compassion. The Christmas Fund, a Special Mission Offering of the United Church

of Christ, offers us a way to restore *shalom*. It provides support for retired clergy and lay employees through health premium and pension supplementation, and supports those church workers that have emergency expenses. Today we are receiving this special offering, in addition to our regular offering. As we consider our own sense of peace this morning, we are invited to listen to hear if God is calling us to support the peace of those who find themselves in need, having served the church long and well. Let us present our tithes and offerings.

**Offertory: “The Quiet Carol”** by Lorenz

Kayleen Yuda

**\*Doxology:** # 780 or # 781

**\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**O gracious Giver, accept these our gifts. We have heard your voice speaking peace to us, and now respond, however little or great our resources may be. Bless these gifts, send them forward, that they may help to feed your flock and restore *shalom*. We seek to be your voice, your hands, your feet. May these gifts be acceptable in your sight, as you are the light of peace for us. Amen.**

#### THE LORD’S SUPPER

**Communion Hymn: #336**

**“Here, O My Lord, I See Your Face to Face” Vs 1, 2, 3, 4**

**Invitation**

**Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd**

**Consecrating the Bread and Cup**

**Pastor Stiven Pousima**

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

Please come forward, as you are able, to share in the bread of life and the cup of salvation. If you wish, we will serve you in your seat. Following communion, please form a fellowship circle around the sanctuary.

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Closing Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”** see Insert

**\* Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction Response: #327 “Jesus Loves Me”**

He aloha ko Iesu  
I ke keiki li’ili’i no,  
Nona no ka po’e li’;ili’i

**Nona wau ka poki'i nei  
Keiki aloha!  
Keiki aloha!  
Keiki aloha!  
Kealoha! O Iesu!**

**\*Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

**\*Postlude: "Shout the Glad Tidings" by Avison-Simone** Kayleen Yuda

Today we welcome the Marhsallese Assembly of God Church, Pastor Brandy Karben to worship. We also welcome the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Pastor Stiven Pousima and the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa. Pastor Take Sunia is off island today.

**Ushers:** Moira Tanaka, Newton Chu,  
Ester Kodani & Karl Kawahara

**Flowers:** Jean Kita

**Interim Minister:** Mary Olney-Loyd

**Moderator:** Sue Smith

**Minister Emeritus:** Susumu Yamane

**Office Manager:** Jodi Enriquez

**Choir Director:** Katherine Wilson

**Choir Accompanist:** LaRae K. Mortensen

**Organist:** Kayleen Yuda

**Childcare Coordinator:** Evonne Shiohita

**Dates to Remember and Reminders**

Sun, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>

Installation of Officers during service  
& Christmas Caroling at 2 p.m.

Mr. Watanabe will be making his famous Portuguese bean soup.

Sun, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>

"Instant Pageant" during worship

Sun, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

## **This Week at Church of the Holy Cross**

- **Choir Practice**, Sunday at 8:30 am in Sanctuary and Tuesdays at 4:30 pm in the Sanctuary
- **Rhythm & Life exercise class**, BF Tuesdays, 3:30pm
- **Bible Study** every Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Building of Faith and Wednesday at the Parsonage at 9:30 am
- **International Young Adults Association Bible Study** is held each Wednesday evening 7:30 p.m.
- **Qi Goong exercise class** meets Friday morning 9-10:30 a.m.  
(BF, open to church members)
- **Ballroom Dance class** will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Building of Faith
- **Ron Fujiyoshi, Ohana Ho'opakele** meets in the Lounge Thursday at 9am.
- Bell Choir every Saturday at 1pm in J's Café

## **Other Congregations that Worship here Today**

- **The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga** meets on Sunday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei** – worships in the BF today at 9 a.m.
- **Samoan Church** worships at 12pm on Sundays in Sanctuary.
- **Chuukese Church** worships in BF meeting room at 3pm today.
- **First Marshallese Assembly of God**, worships today 4pm.

**BF=Building of Faith**