

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
December 21, 2014

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

Words of Greeting	Gloria Kobayashi
Pastoral Welcome	Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd
Prelude: “Noel Nouvelet”	Kayleen Yuda

by French Carol Ark Wood

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

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

One: There is a light drawing near – a light that will soon enter this world in the most unlikely of places, by the most unlikely of mothers.

Many: It is a light that promises hope.

One: It is only a faint glow in the distance, like a new star blooming in the night, but it cannot be contained. It will topple empires, heal the sick, and touch the weary heart.

Many: It is a light that brings peace.

One: The light is a promise, the same promise that the angel Gabriel whispered to Mary so long ago: “Emmanuel,” as if to say, “The Eternal is right here with us.”

Many: It is a light that promises joy.

One: The light is coming, as surely as God’s love is steadfast. Its radiant reach is limitless, enveloping each one of us with a love that knows no bounds.

Many: It is a light that brings us love.

***Lighting of the Advent Candles & Prayer of Praise**

Malia Mattos, Latai Loa & Swin Joseph

*** Hymn of Praise: “O Come All Ye Faithful” (see insert)**

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

Almighty God, Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of darkness in the coming of Jesus our Christ. We confess our inability to see the light and walk in your ways. Forgive us. Open our eyes to the needs of others so we may walk the paths of justice and love. May we open our lives to the Spirit of Christ this day and the coming days. Amen.

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

God brings a light to us in the babe of Bethlehem. This light promises hope & joy; it brings us peace and love. We are forgiven! Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Farewell to Ruth Farrell

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: "Breath of Heaven" (Mary's Song)

Na Leo Nio Lani

By Chris Eaton & Amy Grant, Arr: Craig Courtney

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Meditation: Here I Am God – Your Servant

"The Christmas Story Portrayed"

You are invited to participate – just go to the rear of the sanctuary to receive a costume piece

**Narrators: John Narruhn, Perliza Perez and Timothy Nakamoto
Mori Family Mary and Joseph**

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem vs. 1 & 2

The Animals

Hymn: Away in the Manger vs. 1 & 2

The Angels

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing vs. 1 & 2

The Shepherds

Hymn: #154 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

The Magi

Hymn: We Three Kings vs. 1 (see insert)

Introduction to Offering

Let your light so shine before people, that they may see your good work and give glory to God who comes to us as the Christ Child. We will now receive this mornings offering.

Offertory: “O Come, Little Children ”

Kayleen Yuda

By Schulz-Wood

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

***Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

God of gracious love, we bring before you our gifts and offerings. Use these our gifts to bring the light of Christ to others, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn: “Joy to the World” (see insert)**

*** Benediction**

***Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

***Postlude: “Postlude for Christmas”**

Kayleen Yuda

By Czech Carol-Simone

Mahalo nui loa to the Board of Christian Education in 2014: Ruth Farrell, Yoko Hayano, Lei Jack, Joyce Nakamoto, and Amy Yamaki for their ministry with our children and youth. Thank you to Eileen Shiraishi for her valuable assistance. Thank you to James Yoshiyama who teaches the youth class. Thank you to Evonne Shiohita our Childcare Coordinator. Thank you to Malia Mattos who teaches Sunday School.

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

Flowers: Beverly Dodo

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. 21st

“Instant Pageant” during worship
Children & Youth will portray the Christmas story.
You are invited to participate

Mon, Dec. 22nd at 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study
In the Building of Faith

Wed, Dec. 24th

NO MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Wed, Dec. 24th at 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship
Carols, Christmas Story, Candlelight
Refreshments following in Building of Faith.
Please invite your family and friends.

Thurs, Dec. 25th

Merry Christmas

The Church office will be closed.

Sun, Dec. 28th

Worship Service

A story for the Christmas Season and Caroling

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
- **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. in the Sanctuary
- **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 1pm today.
- **First Marshallese Assembly of God**, worships today 4 pm in the Sanctuary.

BF=Building of Faith