

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
December 24, 2014 7 p.m.

**WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE CHRIST'S BIRTH**

**Prelude:**     **"The Birth of A King"**                     Kayleen Yuda  
                  **"There's a Song in the Air"**  
                  **"The First Noel"**

*by Whitworth*

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

**Welcome**   Gary Loyd

**Call to Worship & Lighting of Advent Candles**

***Joyce, Henry, Timothy and Jordan Nakamoto***

**One:**     We have waited for weeks. We have waited all our lives for this time, this blessing. This is when we pray our yes, like Mary. When we are finally ready to have God enter into our lives, filling us with life that is ours.

**Many:**   **Like a new mother, we nurture this new life with hopeful belief, peaceful living, loving care, and joyful acceptance. The Advent candles blaze, symbolizing the light of these gifts in our lives.**

**One:**     As we light the Christ candle tonight for the first time, may it remind us that Christ is the true center of our lives.

**Many:**   **Most gracious God, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may our lives become centered on living in your hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.**

**\* Hymn of Praise: "O Come All Ye Faithful v. 1, 2, 3 (see insert)**

**\*Prayer of Praise (unison)**

**Holy one you gave us the gift of life, you put us in a stunning world, and you made us free to choose. Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, you give us new life and new hope for knowing you. May that Light shine through our choices, our words, and our acts, so that others will praise you, source of Light and Love. Amen.**

**Christmas Greeting**

**Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd**

*"In Search of our Kneeling Places" by Ann Weems*

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

*(You are invited to offer this prayer in the words most familiar to you.)*

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.

## WE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

The Voice of the Prophet Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol: #116 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs. 1 & 2

The Annunciation: Luke 1:26-33

Anthem: "Breath of Heaven" Na Leo Ni'o Lani  
*By Chris Eaton & Amy Grant arr. Craig Courtney*

The Magnificat: Luke 1:46-55

Solo: "Bring a Torch Janette Isabelle" Christopher Tomich and Kait Wilson  
*Traditional French Carol*

The Journey: Luke 2:1-7

The Meditation: "No Room in the Inn" Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd

The Christmas Prayer Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 1 & 2 (see insert)

The Shepherds: Luke 2:8-20

Anthem: "The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon" Na Leo Ni'o Lani  
*Arr. by Michael Clawson*  
*on flute: JP Thoma, Lynn Yellen & Rysa de la Cruz*

Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High" vs. 1 & 2 (see insert)

## NO LONGER TO WALK IN DARKNESS

Blessing of the Candles

from John 1



## **Dates to Remember and Reminders**

Wed, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 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. 25<sup>th</sup>  
**Merry Christmas**  
The Church office will be closed.

Sun, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.  
Worship Service  
A story for the Christmas Season and Caroling

Thurs, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Happy New Year**  
The Church office will be closed.

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

- **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 1 pm in J's Cafe**

## **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**