

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2015

PAYING-TRIBUTE-TO-OUR-SENIORS SUNDAY
Focusing on enriching human relationships as *time passes by!*
A participatory Liturgy on aging graciously and gratefully!
God be with us as we vintage!

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service – Congregational singing together

- 1) #25 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past,” verse 4
- 2) #546 “Jesus, Lover of My Soul,” verse 2
- 3) #18 “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer,” verse 3

hence our need for **God to be with us as we vintage!**

Words of Greeting

Millie Daikawa

Pastoral Welcome

Rev. Choo Lak Yeow

Prelude: “Barcarolle” *By Moore*

Kayleen Yuda

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

***Responsive Call to Worship** (*inspired by 2 Kings 2: 1 – 12*)

Lay Reader: **A participatory Liturgy to celebrate Life**
based on 2 Kings 2: 1 – 12

Scripture: 2 Kings 2: 1 -12

Loving us in our frailty!
God be with us as we vintage:
By giving us courage!

The GOD of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna Who reigns enthroned above **understands and remembers and honors our frailty here below.**

[Women] Elijah: ‘Elisha, tarry here.’

[Men] Elisha: As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’

2 Kings 2:2

All: Change of leadership sees the old exiting. Old people may be frail, but please make no mistake about it. Please, remember there's much moral passion curled with pragmatic wisdom in those arthritic fingers. Make no mistake about that as seen in what Elisha had learned!

[Lay Reader] Elisha, very soon, God will mightily use you to bless many people, especially a widow who's going to lose her two children to creditors. A widow who will tell you 'your maidservant has nothing in the house, except a jar of oil.' Tarry with her. Elisha, since there's still much to learn as **time goes by**.

Women: If I occasionally take a **long time** to finish my meal,**
tarry here a while for me and with me. **Remember** when we were poor,
how very often I offered you a portion of my meal so that you tarried with me by having
something extra to eat. The time you took to eat a portion of my meal was the time you
tarried on with me. So, now, for a while, **tarry here for me and with me**.

Pause

Men: **Remember**, please, tarry here and give me your hand the same way that I
offered mine to you
during our first date. Oh, yea![gleefully!], you took a long time to hold my hand
then. Please, don't let go of my hand now!

Let's sing the Senior version of *Jesus Loves me this I know*

**Though I am no longer young
I have much which He's begun
Let me serve Christ with a smile
Go with others the extra mile.**

***Hymn of Praise: #485 "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" verses 1 & 2**

Lay Reader: A Participatory Liturgy to celebrate Life continues.

ALL: And when my old, tired legs don't let me move as quickly as before,**
think of it as God making it possible for me to have you beside me a bit longer. In
sneaky baby steps, aging catches up with us. Needing more time to walk from A to B
gives me to have more time with you.

**Though my steps are, oh, so slow
with my hand in His I'll go
on through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.**

ALL: My dear one, my love and my life, the day you see I'm getting old,

**I ask you to please be patient, but most of all,
try to understand what I'm going through,
when body parts don't work they once did.*****

**Jesus loves me, this I know
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim
Still He bids me trust in Him!**

Women: If when we talk, I repeat the same thing a thousand times, don't interrupt to say:
"You said the same thing a minute ago."*** Just listen, please.

Men: When I don't want to take a bath,
don't be mad and don't embarrass me.***

ALL: When you see how ignorant I am when it comes to new technology, give me a
break. Give me time to learn and don't look at me that way, please, I beg
you.***

**The day you see I'm getting old,
I ask you to please be patient, but most of all,
try to understand what I'm going through.*****

**When the nights are dark and long
In my heart He puts a song
Telling me in words so clear
'Have no fear, for I am near.'
Yes, I love Jesus
Yes, I love Jesus
Yes, I love Jesus
I tell Him when I pray**

Pause

Women: If I occasionally lose track of what we're talking about, give me time to
remember, and if I can't, don't be nervous or impatient.***

Remember and then know in your heart that the most important thing for me is to be
with you!

Men: When my winter days come, don't feel sad.
Just **remember to understand, appreciate, and**
accept me with warm love when I get to the winter of my life.

ALL: Memory resides in antiques. That's why people pay so much for the joy and
pleasure found in them. Remember, for as a person is, so is her/his age.

ALL: Glorious memories are our heart's treasures!

***Gloria Patri**

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Time with Children – My mother broke her piggy bank on my head

Please rise if you are able and join hands in a circle for the **Lord's Prayer** [using 'debts' and 'debtors.' – in unison]

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

After the Lord's Prayer, please pass the Peace of Christ to your neighbor on your left and right, after which, please be seated for the Ministry in Music.

Special Music: The Prayer of Saint Francis *Na Leo Ni'o Lani*

Hymn: #409 "I Heard My Mother Say" verses 1 and 2

WE SPEAK TO GOD IN PRAYER [People's Prayers]

ALL: We praise You, our God, that we are members of this big Church of the Holy Cross ohana with a strong support system. We are fellow pilgrims in our faith journey who lean upon and receive support from You and also from one another. We also share the same ambition to give of our best to You, our Master. All cogs need to work properly to turn the wheel, so, too, God, You use various individuals to make our many concerns ride on the tide of concerns!

Our God Who comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable, in our dire afflictions, hasten to comfort us. When we tarry far too long in our comfort zone, be quick, O Lord, to afflict us.

O God, the Compassionate One, Who inhabits eternity and underneath Whose wings is our eternal shelter and everlasting safety, descend to us in Your glory to succor us as 'one season following another, laden with happiness and tears' descends on us.

As friends and co-workers in Your vineyard for decades, we thank You, God, that we know, respect, and love each other well enough to share our talents, time, and

treasury willingly. We praise You, our God, that we don't need to be the prima donna. We thank You that You have taught us that it is wrong to harbor the I-must-not-only-succeed, but-others-must-also-fail syndrome.

The One Who cares and shares, we thank You that we are free to share our health issues with one another unashamedly. We thank You, God, that we don't have to put up a brave front when our inside is teetering. But for ages, we have learnt that this support system is only as good as its spiritual underpinnings. Your Holy Spirit leads us to pray without ceasing that the spiritual foundation of our support system ought to be built on strong spiritual underpinnings. Amen!

Everyone is invited to say Amen by singing the Beatles' Let it be! Let it be! Oh, Oh, Let it be! [meaning of Amen]

Prayer Response:

Congregation to join in singing the **first** verse of *The Prayer* by Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster

I pray you'll be our eyes, and watch us where we go,
And help us to be wise In times when we don't know!
Let this be our prayer As we go our way;
Lead us to a place, Guide us with your Grace
To a place where we'll be safe!

Responsive Statement (Lay Reader)

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Phil. 2:19-11

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

OFFERTORY SENTENCE [Invitation to the Offering]

Offertory Music You are encouraged to sing verses of 2 and 3 of *The Prayer* [see end of Liturgy]

Offertory Dedication of gifts, givers, and relationships.

ALL: I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging bread. He is ever giving liberally and lending, and his children become a blessing. Psalm 37: 25.

Discordant notes ruin a symphony unless you embrace the discordant notes and produce a new symphony. If I get to live today, it's good. If I survive to see and enjoy tomorrow, it's even better! Our ambition is nothing compared to God's holy will for our lives. Amen!

***Doxology** (*unison – as shown*)

Ho`o nani ka Makua mau, Ke Keiki me ka Uhane no,
Ke akua mau, Ho`o mai ka`i pu,
Ko ke ia ao, ko ke la ao. Amene

***Offertory Prayer** [Prayer of Dedication]

Lay Reader: They who give to me, teach me how to give! So,
WE GIVE TO THANK GOD IN WORSHIP!

How do you open a door without using your hands? You can't give without using your hands.

You can't receive without receiving with your hands.

ALL: Be pleased, O Lord, to bless both the gift and giver! The gift is the life You have given us.
The giver is the gift we return to You!
With open hands, we give a portion of what You have so generously given us.
We give to God what God gives to us, lest God gives to us what we give to God!
A-mene!

Lay Reader: A Participatory Liturgy to celebrate Life continues.

ALL: 'Rapid as the flow of the river may be, the surroundings are always calm; though the flowers fall again and again, the mood is naturally relaxed,'**** so, too, does God's unfailing and 'naturally relaxed' love embrace frail and fallen humanity.

ALL: Remember I don't want you ever to have any regret in not enjoying the winter of your life.
So, please, CELEBRATE the winter of your life with me! Should I ever begrudge you, even for a moment, please, with Christ's all-sufficient grace, please, help me to *transition from grudge to grace!*

All piously intone:

What we offer to God, in similar spirit we offer the same to each other.

Pause

ALL: Anyone can run away, but no one can run away from regrets.

I have never regretted loving you, my precious one, my love and my life.

How can we thank You, O God, for loving us all these years, except to say

E`homaika`i i Ke Akua - Thanks be to God!

ALL: In our old age, advanced in wisdom and experiences, we now gladly sing with conviction and joyfully sing for decision:

***Closing Hymn: #449 “Softly and Tenderly”** verses 1 and 2

***BENEDICTION**

***Congregational Response: #96 “Sun of My Soul”**

Sun of my soul, Thou Savior dear, It is not night if Thou be near; O may no earth-born cloud arise To hide Thee from Thy servant’s eyes!

Be near to bless me when I wake, Ere thro’ the world my way I take; Abide with me till in Thy love I lose myself in heav’n above.

***Postlude: “Praise Him with the Sound of the Trumpet”**

By Simone

Kayleen Yuda

Food for Thought

‘Life is a narrative, and we are editing as we go along. As circumstances change, we will adjust. We realize that the most important thing isn’t what one is leaning into. It’s that we remember that **we can always lean on each other.**’ [boldfaced mine]

The Wall Street Journal SUNDAY, 5/26/13, page D4.

***LETTER FROM A PARENT TO A DEAR CHILD

[Adapted from Internet]

**** Daoist proverb

The Prayer

1] I pray you’ll be our eyes, and watch us where we go and help us to be wise in times when we don’t know.

Let this be our prayer as we go our way,

Lead us to a place, guide us with your grace

to a place where we’ll be safe.

2] I pray we'll find your light, and hold it in our hearts,
When stars go out each night, remind us where you are.
Let this be our prayer when shadows fill our day;
Lead us to a place, guide us with your grace,
Give us faith so we'll be safe.
Bridge [not sung]

3] We ask that life be kind and watch us from above.
We hope each soul will find another soul to love.
Let this be our prayer, just like ev'ry child
Needs to find a place, guide us with your grace, give us faith so we'll be safe.
Need to find a place, guide us with your grace;
Give us faith so we'll be safe!!!

Praise God for your participation in
PAYING-TRIBUTE-TO-OUR-SENIORS SUNDAY
Focusing on enriching human relationships as *time passes by!*
A participatory Liturgy on aging graciously and gratefully!
God be with us as we vintage!

The God of Abraham/Sarah praise, all praises to God's name,
Who was and is to be, forever the same!
The one eternal God, before what now appears;
The First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years! Amen!

Ushers: Woody, Jean & Erin Kita,
Mary Ann Katayama & Saeko Hayashi
Flowers: Millie Uchima (memorial) &
Millie Kataoka
Interim Minister: Choo Lak Yeow
Moderator: Woody Kita
Minister Emeritus: Susumu Yamane Sensei
Office Manager: Jodi Enriquez
Choir Director: Katherine Wilson
Choir Accompanist: Mary Cockcroft
Organist: Kayleen Yuda
Childcare Coordinator: Dorothy Matsui

Dates to Remember

~Today, May 17th~

**Christian Ed Graduation during worship
& Board of Trustees Meeting after worship**

~Today, May 17th~
John Narruhn's Birthday
Refreshments will be served in the Building of Faith after Worship

~Wednesday, May 20th~
Messenger
Please submit articles by May 15th
Family Thank Offering envelopes
Will be included with the Messenger

~Saturday, May 23rd @ 9:00 am~
SERVICE DAY
Come and help beautify our campus

~Sunday, May 24th~
Board of Deacons meeting
After Worship

~Sunday, May 24th~
Strengthen the Church of the Holy Cross
Offerings will be received

~Monday, May 25th~
MEMORIAL DAY –
Church Office Closed

~Monday, May 25th~
Blood Bank of Hawaii
Blood Drive
Building of Faith

~Sunday, May 31st~
Christian Ed – Teacher Appreciation - During worship
After worship - Board of Stewardship & Missions Meeting

This Week at the Church of the Holy Cross

- **Bible Study**, Monday at 6:30 pm and Wednesday at 9:30 am in Pastors Study
- **Choir Practice**, 8:30 a.m. Sun. in the Sanctuary & 4:30 pm on Tues. in the Lounge
- **IYAA Bible Study** Wednesday at 7:30 pm in the Lounge. Mark chapter 8
- **Rhythm & Life exercise class**, every Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. in the BF
- **Ballroom Dance** class meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the BF
- **Ron Fujiyoshi, Ohana Ho'opakele** meets every Thurs. at 9am in the Lounge
- **Qigong** meets every Friday at 9:00 am in the Building of Faith.
- **Bell Choir** every Saturday at 1pm in J's Café

Other Congregations that Worship here Today

- **The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga** meets in the sanctuary on Sunday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **Rev. Stiven Pousima**
- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei** – worships 9am in the BF mtg room.
- **Rev. Ichiro Annes**
- **Samoan Church** worships at 12pm in Sanctuary.
- **Rev. Take Sunia**
- **Chuukese Church** worships 3pm in BF meeting room.
- **Rev. Saburo Robert**
- **First Marshallese Assembly of God**, worships 4 pm in the Sanctuary.
- **Rev. Brandy Karben**
- **Muslim Group** meets at 1 pm in the BF mtg room.