

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
**Church Musicians Appreciation Sunday**  
June 28, 2015

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing together**

**Words of Greeting**

**Margaret Torigoe**

**Pastoral Welcom**

**Rev. Choo Lak Yeow**

**Prelude: “Sicilian” *By Archer***

**Kayleen Yuda**

\*All who are able please stand. Unison reading in bold text

**\*Call to Worship**

**Leader:** God of holy reach and saving grace, spur us here in The Church of the Holy Cross to seek healing and a gracious community. Help us to do so for ourselves, in those places that break us down or keep us at arm’s length. Help us to do so for others, who wait on a gentle word or a caring touch from us that makes us all whole and restores.

**People:** The church is called to be the model of God’s love in the world. Love by its nature is risky business, and so we come to worship today to gather the strength to be risk takers standing with those who are excluded, advocating for those who cannot speak for themselves, bringing healing to the infirm and hope to those who feel hopeless, and giving a voice to the voiceless.

**\*Hymn #55 ‘Rejoice, You Pure in Heart,’ verses 1, 3, & 5**

**\*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

**Loving God, you call us to deep engagement in your world, to today we come seeking to strengthen our relationship with you and our knowledge of how best to be your people here in Hilo and beyond. Be with us so we pray. O gracious God, we know there are risks to being generous –quite often the unscrupulous exploit the generosity of the charitable. It happens to us all, and when it does, it can leave us feeling silly and naïve. Our pride is dented, and suddenly doubts become our life’s companion. That makes us hesitant to give, and dismiss people in genuine need. By refusing to**

take loving risks, we harm ourselves. Of these things we can be sure – God is a long term, relentless risk taker who never stops being charitable to us, who never ceases to offer forgiveness and compassion to us, no matter the circumstances in which we reside. Let go of doubt! Embrace trust! Be at peace! A-men.

\*Gloria Patri

## WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Time with Children

Christians meet in park, school cafeteria, and UH Hilo passage way

\***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. A-men.**

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.

**Anthem: "How Can I Keep From Singing?"** *Arr. by Craig Courtney*     **Na Leo Ni'o Lani**

**Scripture:** *Please see the Church Musicians Appreciation Insert*

**Sermon:** Participatory Sermon: David and the temple officials chose the descendants of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun to be in charge of music. They were to praise the LORD by **playing cymbals, harps and other stringed instruments.** 1 Chronicles 25: 1

- *See Insert for participatory sermon in our Church Musicians Appreciation Sunday.*
- Special item from Kait [piano] and JP [flute] on Panis Angelicus

## WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People

**Rev Choo Lak Yeow**

**Hymn: #543 'Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life, vs 1, 2, and 3**

**Invitation to the Offering:**

**Offertory: "Hymn to Joy" Arr. Jordan**

**Kayleen Yuda**

*Congregation is invited to fill the buckets in the back of the Sanctuary*

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication: [unison]**

As we give these gifts we pray that they may impact the world in diverse and daring ways. Enable us to leave this place with our perception tuned and aligned with the heart of God and our desire to serve God's world with diligence strengthened and renewed. This morning we specially acknowledge, genuinely appreciate, and joyfully dedicate the yeoman services of our dedicated musicians who lead us harmoniously to hymn you each Sunday with the musical talents that you have so graciously endowed them. We learn from them how discordant notes ruin a symphony unless we embrace the discordant notes and produce a new symphony. The music they produce enables us to see that wrinkles are jewels women wear on their face. There's life in them! Through their music, they teach us that the church is a place people find their good points. A-men.

**\*Closing Hymn: #543 'Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life, verses 4, 5, and 6**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction Response: #77 'Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing,' verse 1**

**\*Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

**\*Postlude: "Festival March" *By Warren***

**Kayleen Yuda**

**Thank you Eric for donating the lei presented today!!**

**Ushers: Stefan, Jennifer, Ken & Lois Tanouye**

**Flowers: Gloria Kobayashi**

**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: Evonne Shiohita**

**Childcare: Malia Mattos**

## Dates to Remember

**Today, Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Council Meeting (July 2015)**  
8 A.M.  
Before Worship

**Today, Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**J's Mini Mart**  
Before Worship

**Today, Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Board of Deacons meeting**  
After Worship

**Today, Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**"Emergency Preparedness Buckets"**

We will be packing the buckets in case of a disaster.  
Sign-up sheets are available so that we know what you will be generously donating to this project.

**Friday, July 3rd**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**Church office will be CLOSED**

**Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Communion Sunday**

## 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
- **Muslim Community Group** meets every evening from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm for Ramadan in the Building of Faith from June 15, 2015 to July 17, 2015.

## 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.
  - 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

BF=Building of Faith

## CHURCH MUSICIANS APPRECIATION SUNDAY

### Participatory Scripture and Sermon

The lei-ing ceremony is CHC's appreciation of and encouragement to all our ministers in music exercising their ministry in music so faithfully and joyfully Sunday by Sunday. The success of their ministry is seen in their melodious tone and comfortable tune in making majestic music in CHC for our good Lord to hear.

The participatory Sermon is based on Nehemiah 4:6 *For the people have a mind to work!!!* which is the theme of Church Musicians Appreciation Sunday.

#### **Pastor on the Biblical background of the Nehemiah passages:**

Return to Jerusalem after the 586 BC Babylonian Exile.

#### **Reader: Katherine Wilson**

Strong opposition from the jealous local officials [Nehemiah 4: 5] who mocked Nehemiah & company with words from Sanbal`lat.

What are these feeble Jews doing?

Will they restore things?

Will they sacrifice?

Will they finish up in a day?

Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burnt ones at that?

See verse Nehemiah 4: 2

#### **Reader: Anna Kennedy**

To add salt to the wound, Tobi-ah the Ammonite was by him [Sanbal`lat], and he said, Yes, what are they building – if a fox ['lightweight,' understood] goes up on it he will bring down their stone wall! Nehemiah 4: 3

#### **Pastor - Nehemiah's reaction/response/reply?**

#### **Reader: Bob Smith**

Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn back their taunt upon their own heads, their guilt and let not their sin be blotted out from thy sight; for they have provoked thee to anger before the builders. Nehemiah 4: 4 – 5

#### **Reader: Gloria - Result?**

So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height.

How & why so? *For the people have a mind to work!!!*

End of a success story?

Not a nary because the jealous local officials had a more devious plan to. Listen up!

When you think it's safe to resume building/restoring the broken down wall, the devil strikes again!

**Reader: J P Thoma**

But when Sanbal`lat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, *they were very angry; and they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it!* Nehemiah 4: 7 – 8

**Reader: Biff Kennedy**

So, what did the Jews do?

And we prayed to our God, and set *a guard* as a protection against them day and night. Nehemiah 4: 9.

When you think it's safe to resume building/restoring the broken down wall, the demon strikes again!

This time, more than just ONE guard is needed for providing protection!

**Reader: Irene Okada**

When our enemies heard that it [their plan to disrupt & interrupt rebuilding of the walls of protection] was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work.

From that day on,

- half of my servants worked on construction, and
- half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail;
- and the leaders stood behind all the house of Judah, who were building on the wall.
- Those who carried the burdens were laden in such a way that each with one hand labored on the work and with the other held his weapon.
- And each of the builders had his sword girded at his side while he built.
- The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

Nehemiah 4: 15 – 18

**Pastor** - Enough? Not quite!

**Reader: Jane Kawazoe**

And I [Nehemiah] said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people,

- *'The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. In that place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us. Nehemiah 4: 19 – 20*
- So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn till the stars came out.
- I also said to the people at that time, *'Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard within Jerusalem, that they may labor by day.'* Nehemiah 4: 21 – 22
- So neither I nor my brethren nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon in his hand. Nehemiah 4: 23

**Reader: Barbara Iwani**

So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn till the stars came out. I [Nehemiah] also said to the people at that time, 'Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day.' I repeat: So neither I nor my brethren nor my servants nor the men of guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapons in his hand. Nehemiah 4:19 – 23

**Reader: Carol Morioka - End of a success story?**

When you think it's safe to resume building/restoring the broken down wall, the demon strikes again!

There's more!

**Reader: Mary Ann Katayama**

In chapter six, we read how the local officials tried to do Nehemiah in by

- Suggesting to *' . . . meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono,'* intending *' . . . to do me harm.'* This suggestion occurred four times and failed every time. Verses 1 – 2.
- The fifth time, Sanbal`lat sent his servant with a letter claiming that Nehemiah was instigating the Jews to rebel and that Nehemiah was plotting to *' . . . become their king.'* Verses 5 – 7

**Reader: Millie Uchima**

When the above-mentioned strategy flopped, the local officials set another trap by using Shemai`ah to invite Nehemiah to *' . . . meet in the house of God, WITHIN the temple; for they [local officials' hit men!] are coming to kill you.'* Verse 1

**Pastor** - Unfortunately for them, Nehemiah caught on early!

## Reader: Anne Sadayasu

And I understood, and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanbal`lat had hired him. For this purpose he was hired, that I should be afraid and act in this way and sin [by entering the forbidden inner sanatorium] and so they could give me an evil report, in order to taunt me [lose credibility].’ Verses 12 - 13

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I’d like to apply *for the people have a mind to work* principle to people in a family setting.

It is true that when families apply *for the people have a mind to work* principle to a family setting, three things will happen.

A) The young respect the leaders.

B) Elders encourage the young to prosper.

C) When both these two things are applied and successfully applied, then it is said: *a sparrow has given birth to an eagle*. Illustration seen in a carpenter father being the father of a tiptop neuro surgeon.

You may want to know a Japanese saying along this line: a hawk born of a kite. That is to say, a small kite gives birth to a mighty hawk. Tonbi ga taka wo umu.

[tonbi: a kite,

ga: grammatically indicates subject,

so tonbi is the subject of the sentence,

taka: hawk,

wo: grammatically indicates object, so taka [hawk] is object,

umu: to bear a child, give birth].

In Japan, one reason for living is to serve others!! Japanese say "hataraku" (work in verb).

A novelist had written on hataraku woraku-nisura, in his novel.

hataraku woraku-nisura meaning we work for others

hata [surrounding others]

wo (grammatically indicate objects)

raku-nisuru [live easily comfortably].

*So we work for others* so that all may live comfortably together.

This "others" includes not only human beings but also nature and God as well! The nearest 'others' are, of course, family members!!

No energy is spared in encouraging and enabling the young to succeed. When successful, the young *remember their source* every time they drink water, hence the Chinese saying: Remember your source.

It has been observed that during the Great Depression, very few Filipinos were seen at the bread line. Why? Filipino families help out each other at all time.

In Philippines, when the sole bread-winner in the family dies, the family holds a pow-wow to decide which of the children will go out to work to support the family. Most of the

time, it is the *kuya* [*onisan* in Japanese, meaning the oldest brother] or the *ate*, [*onesan* in Japanese, that is, the oldest sister] who would sacrifice their life to bring up the siblings. They would stop their high schooling and go out to work to support their siblings. On few occasions when the *kuya* or *ate* is about to graduate from college, a younger sibling or younger siblings would go out and work so that the *kuya* or *ate* could graduate from college and then to support the family.

*for the people have a mind to work* principle in a family setting works out well. That's how families down the ages have kept Hilo strong because all family members have a mind to work. You see this in nearly 7 million Filipinos guest working all over the world, as mentioned last week. That's how and why Japanese and Chinese left Japan and China to work all over the world in order to support their parents and siblings back home.

Your forebears came to Hawai`i to seek the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. So, did my China-born parents in Singapore. We are where we are because our elders encouraged their young to succeed. They engineered a scheme whereby a sparrow could give birth to an eagle / a kite could give birth to a hawk. Together, they and we, have a mind to work.

This applies to our CHC as well. As members of this big ohana of different races and cultures, we put our shoulders to the plow and plow the field. We are not perfect. We rejoice that God can use defective tools, defective tools that we are.

Praise God that God is blind to our defects.

Praise God that God only sees our prospects.

Praise God that God uses both our limited ability and our super availability!

**Choo Lak Yeow**  
**Church of the Holy Cross**  
**June 28, 2015**