

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing together

Words of Greeting

Margaret Torigoe

Pastoral Welcome

Rev. Choo Lak Yeow

Prelude: “The Advent Chorale” *Mendelssohn-Porter*

Kayleen Yuda

Call to Worship

Leader: The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid.”

People: I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.

Leader: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

People: He is Christ the Lord!

Leader: You turned my wailing to dancing:

People: You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

Leader: That my heart may sing to you and not be silent.

ALL: O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

Charity Robert Mori

Hymn: The Candle of Joy - Sung to Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Lord we thank you and we praise you

For your gift to us divine.

As we celebrate this Advent

Fill our hearts with joy sublime.

Candles glowing, spirits growing,

As the Christ child comes to earth.

We rejoice his holy birth. We rejoice his holy birth.

Candle Lighting Response and Prayer

Leader: The candle of joy prepares us for Christ's coming.

ALL: Our hearts glow with the light of joy.

Leader: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: We wait with joy. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

Holy God, as we get closer and closer to Christmas, it gets easier to get caught up in the excitement and the bustle around us. Today, we joyfully gather together to worship you. Help us to set aside our planning and our fretting, our wish lists, our to-do and must-do lists, so that we may focus on you. We pray that your Holy Spirit would fill this place that we love, that we might hear your voice speaking to us. Amene.

*Gloria Patri

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Time with Children: The Fall of Saigon, 1975

Rev. Choo Lak Yeow

Please rise if you are able and join hands in a circle

*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, 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 of Music and the children leave for Sunday school.

Anthem: "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"

Na Leo Ni'o Lani

By: John Rutter

Scripture: Micah 4: 1 – 4

Scripture: Philippians 2: 5

Sermon: I give my life for you

Rev. Choo Lak Yeow

Excerpts from *The Sacred Bird* from Miss Saigon See Insert

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People

Rev. Choo Lak Yeow

Hymn: #127 'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming,' verses 1 & 2

Invitation to the Offering:

Holy One, like the lava that boils up from the depths of Earth, your Holy Spirit works in us, lighting up a fire in our bellies for peace on earth to all humans and justice for the down-trodden. Use that fire to refine and mold us into new people and new communities. Just as that hot lava explodes into the atmosphere and changes all that it touches, you call us to touch those we bump into with hospitality, and to transform your world. Use us as your hands and feet in the world, O God! Use our humble and grateful offering to do your mission in our Hilo community and beyond.

Offertory: "In Dulci Jubilo (14th Century German Carol) *By: Wood* Kayleen Yuda

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

Ho`onani i ka makua mau

(Praise God from whom all blessings flow)

Ke keiki me ka`uhane no

(Praise Him, all creatures here below)

Ke Akua mau ho`omaika`i pu

(Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts)

Ko keia ao, ko kela ao

(Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost)

'Amene

(Amen)

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

Glorious God, you have loved us and blessed us beyond our comprehension. You have blessed us with a comfortable house and a steady income. We are truly grateful. In our gratitude we bring this offering which is a humble portion which we so happily desire to give back to you. We pray that you will use these our humble gifts to bless others, that they may know your love as we do. Amene.

***Closing Hymn: #104 'We Hail You God's Anointed,' verses 1 & 3**

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction Response: #104 'We Hail You God's Anointed,' verse 4**

***Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

*Postlude: "Postlude for Christmas" (*Czech Carol*) – By: Simone Kayleen Yuda

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

Flowers: Jean Kita (Mem)

Interim Minister: Rev. Choo Lak Yeow

Moderator: Woody Kita

Minister Emeritus: Susumu Yamane Sensei

Office Manager: Jodi Enriquez

Choir Director: Katherine Wilson

Choir Accompanist: Kanako Okita

Organist: Kayleen Yuda

Childcare Coordinator: Evonne Shiohita

Childcare: Jennie Kondo

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today, December 13th

Council Meeting

After worship

Today, December 13th

Christmas Caroling at 2 pm

Wednesday, December 16th

Messenger

Articles must be submitted by noon on Monday, Dec. 14th

Wednesday, December 16th

Trustees Meeting

5 pm in the Lounge

Thursday, December 17th

Yuriko Yamauchi

Celebration of Life

Dodo Mortuary

Visitation at 10 am & Service at 11 am

Sunday, December 20th

Children's Christmas Pageant during Worship

Thursday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Program at 7:00 p.m.
“Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols”

Friday, December 25th
Merry Christmas
CHC Office will be Closed

Sunday, December 27th
J's Mini Mart
Before Worship

Sunday, December 27th
Installation of 2016 Office Bearers

Sunday, December 27th
Deacons Meeting
After worship

Sunday, January 3rd, 2016
Beginner Bible Class
Pastors Office 8:30 am to 9:30 am

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. Sunday in the Sanctuary & 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Tuesday in the Lounge
- IYAA Bible Study Wednesday at 7:30 pm in the Lounge.
- Rhythm & Life exercise class, every Tuesday 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 Thursday at 9:00 am in the Lounge
- Qigong meets every Friday at 9:00 am to 10:30 am in the Building of Faith.
- Bell Choir every Saturday at 1pm in J's Café
- Muslim Community Group meets every Friday at 1:00 p.m. in the Building of Faith Meeting Room

Other Congregations that Worship here Today

- The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga meets in the Sanctuary on Sunday from 2 pm to 4 pm and Wednesday from 6 pm to 7 pm
Rev. Stiven Pousima; Assistant to Pastor: Tevita Talanoa
- The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei – worships 10am to noon in the Building of Faith.
Rev. Ichiro Annes
- Samoan Church worships at 12pm in Sanctuary.
Rev. Take Sunia
- First Marshallese Assembly of God, worships 4 pm in the Sanctuary.
Rev. Brandy Karben