

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2016

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing**

**Words of Greeting**

Reilly Narruhn

**Pastoral Welcome**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Prelude**

Kayleen Yuda

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle: Hope**

**Leader:** In perilous times, God called forth prophets. They spoke against the evils of their day. They raised their voice against oppressors and their deeds. To those who suffered came a different word: that on the acceptable day of God, the reign of tyranny would cease.

**All Sing: Within us plant the seeds of hope To sprout into a tree,  
To know the promises of God So difficult to see  
And labor in the groves of life To bring its fruit to be.**

**Leader:** With this first Advent candle, we kindle a flame for hope. This fire burns for the oppressed. This fire burns for helpless. This fire burns for the lost. This fire burns for the people Jesus came to save.

**Hymn #122: Come, O Long-Expected Jesus** (v. 1-3)

**Invocation in unison**

**Holy One, all too frequently our hope flickers dimly like a candle in the wind. We barely feel its warmth. Feed our hope for justice with justice. Feed our hope for healing with healing. Feed our hope for love with love, in the name of the One who came to meet all hopes, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Gloria Patri**

## WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

**Anthem**

IYAA

**Time with Children and Advent Craft**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

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

**Lord's Prayer** 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. Amen.

**Scriptures: Isaiah 2:1-5**

**Matthew 24:36-44**

**Sermon: "I Hope I'm Ready"**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

## WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

**Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Hymn #112: "Keep Awake, Be Always Ready" (v. 1-2)**

**Invitation to the Offering:**

To build something, we need to have the materials ready. To help someone, we need to have what they require ready. To respond to God, we have have our hearts ready. With your gifts, you help us be ready together: to build, to help, and to pray. Let our offerings now be received.

**Offertory**

**Doxology:**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
 Praise Him all creatures here below  
 Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts  
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost – Amen

**Prayer of Dedication in unison**

**God of hope, prepare us for the days of celebration. God of hope, prepare us for the days of decision. God of hope, prepare us for the days of fulfillment. As you accept our gifts, renew our hearts, for all the days of hope ahead. Amen.**

**Hymn #607: We Would Be Building (v. 1-3)**

**Benediction**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Choral Benediction Response #116: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1)**

**Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

**Postlude**

Kayleen Yuda

**Dates to Remember**

- Today, November 27 – Board of Deacons
- Today, November 27 – First Sunday in Advent
- Today, November 27 – J's Mini Mart
- Sunday, December 4 – Board of Trustees
- Sunday, December 4 – Communion

**Special Announcements**

Rhythm & Life Exercise classes have been postponed until further notice.

During November, flags in the sanctuary honor our missionary heritage from Japan, the nations of Chuuk, the Marshall Islands, Pohnpei, Tonga, America Samoa, and the home we share here in Hawai'i and the United States. We give thanks for all who follow Jesus here at the Church of the Holy Cross.

**Minister:** Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Ushers:** Anne Sadayasu, Ethel Yoshimasu, Eric Tanouye and Jennie Kondo

**Flowers:** Connie Yoshiyama

**Choir Director:** Rachel Edwards

**Choir Accompanist:** Kanako Okita

**Organist:** Kayleen Yuda

**Childcare Coordinator:** Evonne Shioshita

**Childcare:** Tricia Kimura

**Moderator:** Woody Kita

**Minister Emeritus:** Rev. Susumu Yamane

**Office Manager:** Pearl “Momi” Lyman

**Web Master:** Ruth Niino-DuPonte

**Pre-Service Music:** Bob and Sue Smith

**Projected Imagery:** Sue Smith

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

▪ **Bible Study with Pastor Eric:**

Sundays, 8:30 am – A Survey of the Bible in J’s Café

Wednesdays, 9:30 am—Lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday Service in Pastor’s office

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm – Pastor’s office

▪ **A Gathering Place,** Mondays 9-12 noon, Building of Faith

▪ **IYAA Bible Study,** Wednesdays, 7:30 pm in the Lounge

▪ **Ron Fujiyoshi, Ohana Ho’opakele,** Thursdays, 9 am in the Lounge

▪ **Qigong,** Fridays, 9:00 am in the Building of Faith

▪ **Hand Bell Choir,** Saturdays, 1 pm in J’s Café

### **Other Faith Groups that meet at Church of the Holy Cross**

▪ **The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga** meets in the Sanctuary Sundays from 2 pm to 4 pm and Wednesdays from 6 to 7 pm

**Rev. Stiven Pousima; Assistant to Pastor: Tevita Talanoa**

▪ **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei** – 10 am in Building of Faith.

**Rev. Bensis Henry, Rev. Henry Wilson**

▪ **Congregational Christian Church of American Samoan** worships at 12 pm in the Sanctuary.

**Rev. Ausage Lelili'o and Rev. Rae Lelili'o**

▪ **The Bedesta Church** worships at 1:30 pm in the Building of Faith

**Pastor Edmes Edwin**

▪ **First Marshallese Assembly of God,** 4 pm in the Sanctuary.

**Rev. Brandy Karben**

▪ **Muslim Community Group** meets Fridays at 1:00 pm in the Building of Faith Meeting Room