

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Third Sunday of Advent: Joy, December 11, 2016

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service Music

Words of Greeting

Jayson Rekis

Pastoral Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Prelude: O Come Emmanuel—*Held*

Kayleen Yuda

All those who are able, please rise. [Unison reading in **bold** text]

Leader: It took an angel's visit, and a visit to her cousin, to awaken Mary to the wondrous love who was coming into her world. The words of the prophets were vague; the signs of the times were grim. A Savior's birth was hoped-for but unlooked-for – until the words of Gabriel and Elizabeth unlocked the heart of Mary, and her joy poured forth.

All Sing: **Christ be our joy; O let your birth Awake our songs of praise!**
Beyond all expectation come To resurrect our days
Into a holy mystery We'll celebrate always.

Leader: In the first candle of Advent, we declare our Hope. In the second candle of Advent, we declare our dedication to Peace. In the third candle of Advent, we proclaim our Joy, arising when we least expect it. This fire burns for those who mourn. This fire burns for those who hunger. This fire burns for those deprived of health. This fire burns for Joy to the world. Let us pray with Mary as we sing Mary's song:

Invocation Hymn #119 My Soul Gives Glory to My God (v. 1-5)

Gloria Patri

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Magnificat – *James J Chepponis*

Na Leo Ni`o Lani

Time with Children

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: Luke 1:46-55
Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon: “My Soul Rejoices”

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Hymn #131: It Came upon the Midnight Clear (v. 1-3)

Lay Reader--Invitation to the Offering:

The day of rejoicing is coming, the prophet Isaiah says, and we await it together. Our gifts today in this season of waiting and hope help us to strengthen one another and to offer hope to the world as we look forward to that great day of everlasting joy. Let us gather our gifts together and present them as an offering to God. Let this morning’s offering now be received.

Offertory: Gesu Bambino—*Held*

Kayleen Yuda

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

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let these gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your hope for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

Hymn #116: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 1-4)

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Choral Benediction Response #116: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 5)

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Postlude: Noel – *McKay*

Kayleen Yuda

Dates to Remember

- Today, December 11 – Council Meeting
- Today, December 11 – Christmas Caroling
- Sunday, December 18 – Christmas Fund Offering
- Sunday, December 18 – Deacons Meeting
- Sunday, December 18 – Installation of Officers and Board Members

Special Announcements

Please save and donate your KTA Christmas SAVE-A-TAPE register receipt points from November 30th through December 27, 2016 to our Senior Ministry program. You may turn in your tapes to Eileen Shiraishi, Moira Tanka, or drop them off at the church office. Thank you for supporting our Senior Ministry.

Minister: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Ushers: Moira Tanaka, Newton Chu, Esther Kodani, Margaret Torigoe

Flowers: Beverly Dodo

Choir Director: Rachel Edwards

Choir Accompanist: Kanako Okita

Organist: Kayleen Yuda
Childcare Coordinator: Evonne Shioshita
Childcare: Woody Kita
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
Assistant to Pastor: Tevita Talanoa, Stiven Pousima
- **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
Rev. 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