

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love, December 18, 2016

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing

Words of Greeting

Barbara Iwami

Pastoral Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Prelude: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly – A Polish Carol—*Wood*

Kayleen Yuda

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

Call to Worship:

Leader: Time and time again, the Scriptures celebrate the steadfast love of the Lord. Genesis praises God’s steadfast love for Abraham, and the first letter of John declares that God is love. In Christ, God’s love took form in new and precious ways, in baby’s cry and preacher’s word, in meals and healings, and upon a lonely cross.

**All Sing: How strange that you should care for us Creator of the spheres,
Enough to take on human form And share our human years.
To know the joys of human life, The taste of human tears.**

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. Now we light the tender flame of God’s eternal love. This fire burns for those who think they are alone. This fire burns for those who think that love is powerless. This fire burns for those who cringe before anger. This fire burns for those whom Jesus came to save.

Hymn #141: Carol Our Christmas (v. 1-4)

Prayer of Invocation in unison

God of Joseph, God of Mary, help us live in confidence of your eternal love. In that confidence, may we find courage now and always to forgive when others disappoint us. In that confidence, may we find openness to consider others' needs. In that confidence, may we trust in others' love, and meet new circumstances and new challenges empowered by your ever-present grace. Amen.

Gloria Patri

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: O Little Town of Bethlehem— *Williams/Armstrong*

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: Isaiah 7:10-16

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: "Really?"

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Installation of Church Officers and Leaders

Pastor: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Pastor: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

People: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Pastor: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

Pastor: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

People: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is part of it.

Presentation

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Covenant

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Lay Leaders: I am.

Pastor: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing for the love of Christ?

Lay Leaders: I do, relying on God's grace.

Pastor: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our covenant with them in prayer:

All: Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in your duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before us. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Church of the Holy Cross United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce: You are installed in your respective positions. Let all the people say:

All: Thanks be to God!

Hymn #126: Angels, from the Realms of Glory (v. 1-3)

Invitation to the Offering:

Christ came because God loves us. Christ came as one of God's precious gifts to us. In the gift, God loved us, and loves us still. So let us bring our gifts now in the name of Jesus Christ, because there are those who believe themselves unloved, unworthy, uncared for, and with these gifts, we may love them anew. Let this morning's offering now be received.

Offertory: Star of the East -- *Kennedy*

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

God of love, accept this offering of love to you. God of love, direct this offering so that those we know, and those we don't, may know our love and yours. God of love, bless these givers, that we may know your love anew. Amen.

Hymn #154: Go Tell It on the Mountain (v. 1-3)

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Choral Benediction Response #116: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 6)

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Postlude: Noel, Nouvelet – A French Carol—*Wood*

Kayleen Yuda

Dates to Remember

- Today, December 18 – Christmas Fund Offering
- Today, December 18 – Deacons Meeting
- Today, December 18 – Installation of Officers and Board Members
- Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm
- Sunday, December 25 – Instant Christmas Pageant

Special Announcements

Next Sunday is the "Instant Christmas Pageant," sponsored by the Board of Christian Education. All children who want to participate should report to the lounge at 9:30 a.m. so they can get dressed as shepherds, angels or wise men.

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.

J's Mini-Mart will not be available in December. We will return in January to serve you. Happy Holidays!

Minister: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

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

Flowers: Jean Kita

Choir Director: Rachel Edwards

Choir Accompanist: Kanako Okita

Organist: Kayleen Yuda

Childcare Coordinator: Evonne Shioshita

Childcare: Lei Jack

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