

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Christmas Day, December 25, 2016

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing

Words of Greeting

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude: O Come, All Ye Faithful-*Innes*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Woody Kita

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Kayleen Yuda

Christian and Theone

Albano

Leader: Merry Christmas!

People: Merry Christmas!

Leader: Welcome to this celebration of Jesus' birth. We're going to tell the story – and you're all going to help – we're going to sing our hearts out on Christmas carols, and we're going to welcome God's greatest gift to the world. And first: we're going to sing and light candles.

All Sing:

One candle for our hope

One candle for the world's peace

One candle for the joy that in heaven rings

One candle for love of God and of each other.

One candle for the baby

One candle for the teacher

One candle for the Savior: Christ the Lord!

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. In the fourth candle of Advent, we celebrate the love of God. And now we light the candle in the center, the one which glows for Christ, in the center of our wreath as Christ should be the center of our hearts. This fire

burns for Hope. This fire burns for Peace. This fire burns for Joy. This fire burns for Love. This fire burns for all the world.

Unison Prayer: On this Christmas Day, O God, confirm our Hope. Raise up our Peace. Increase our Joy. Expand our Love. As the Christ Child lived, so may we live: fully human, with laughter and tears, with stories and songs. As he led, so may we follow, and make a better world. Amen.

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem

IYAA

“Star of Wonder” Instant Christmas Pageant

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1, 2, 4)

No Room in the Inn

Carol: Away in a Manger (v. 1-2)

The Angels’ Song

Carol: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (v. 1, 3)

The Shepherds Wonder

Carol: Go, Tell it on the Mountain (v. 1-2)

Visits from Shepherds and Wise Men

Duet: What Child is This (Timothy Nakamoto and Kayleen Yuda)

We Remember

Carol: Joy to the World (v. 1-3)

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People

Hymn #146: Nu Oli (v. 1 Hawn, v. 1 Eng)

Invitation to the Offering:

God made a universe. God made a planet. God made human beings. God made us. In the child of Bethlehem, God offered us a gift of love and grace surpassing even the gift of life itself. In joy and in gratitude, let us offer our gifts to God. Let this morning's offering now be received.

Offertory: The Quiet Carol (Still, Still, Still)—Lorenz

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

Back home, O God, we have undone the bows and removed the wrapping paper that concealed the gifts we've given to each other. In our worship today we have told once more the story of your gift to us in Jesus, hidden not by colored paper but by our strange reluctance to see wonder. Accept the gifts we offer now, O God, so that our gratitude for all your wonders may be visible to you, to us, and all the world. Amen.

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

Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High (v.1-3)

Please remain standing in the circle as we pray

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.**

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Choral Benediction Response: Angels We Have Heard on High (Refrain only)

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Postlude: Joy to the World – *Ritter*

Kayleen Yuda

Pageant Participants

Narrator: John Narruhn

Wonderer: Jordan Nakamoto

Inn-Keeper/Angel: Johanna Narruhn

Dates to Remember

Today, December 25 – Instant Christmas Pageant

Sunday, January 1 – New Year’s Day

Sunday, January 1 – Communion

Saturday, January 7 – Board of Trustees

Saturday, January 21 – Service Day

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: Cindy Debus

Choir Director: Rachel Edwards

Choir Accompanist: Kanako Okita

Organist: Kayleen Yuda

Childcare Coordinator: Evonne Shioshita

Childcare: Ethel Yoshimasu

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

- **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