

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 12, 2017

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing**

**Words of Greeting:**

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

**Pastoral Welcome:**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Prelude:** La Tromba—*Couperin*

Kayleen Yuda

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

**Call to Worship**

Leader: We could have stayed in bed; we could be at a café eating breakfast.

**People: We have chosen to be in this place, feasting on God’s words.**

Leader: We could give a cold shoulder to our neighbours; we could stay in reading the newspapers.

**People: We have chosen to see God with more than just a sliver of our hearts.**

Leader: We could be chasing after the world’s idols; we could be listening to television’s talking heads.

**People: We have chosen to serve the One who blesses us with life.**

Leader: Come, then, let us worship.

**Hymn #13:** O My Soul, Bless Your Creator (v. 1-4)

**Invocation in unison**

**You do not stand there ready to yell at us whenever we do wrong  
but are that gentle Parent who wants only the best for your children always. You  
do not look at us through the lenses of judgment, Servant of all, but see us as your  
sisters and brothers who have wandered away, and so you reach out and take our**

hands so we might walk together. You do not hold anything back, Spirit of goodness, but you fill our empty lives with the waters of grace and peace, so we might overflow with love, wonder, joy, and hope, true blessings to the world. As we gather in worship this day, may we feel our hearts attuned to yours, Loving God. Amen.

## Gloria Patri

### WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

**Anthem:** I Sing as I Arise Today – *Tom Vos*

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:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Matthew 5:21-37

**Sermon:** "Jesus, Wait: You Set the Bar *Higher?*"

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

### WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

**Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Hymn #533:** Children of God (v. 1-3)

### Invitation to the Offering:

Jesus brought us the gift of challenge: calling us to live more gently, more generously, and more righteously than we had done before. In this moment, let us heed his summons, giving from our lives and from our hearts, that none may hunger for their body or their soul. Let this morning's offering now be received.

**Offertory:** Meditation – *Franck*

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**

**Too often, O God, we say “no” to those around us, so may our gifts be the “yes” that others need to hear. We recognize that hunger is all too real, that pain brings people to their knees, that loneliness embraces with despair. In giving now we trust that your grace, hope, and peace will spill upon the world through us. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Hymn #189:** Down at the Cross (v. 1, 3-4)

**Benediction**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Choral Benediction Response #327:** Jesus Loves Me (Hawaiian)

**Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

**Postlude:** March in D – *Guilmant*

Kayleen Yuda

**Dates to Remember**

Today, February 12 – Council Meeting  
 Sunday, February 19 – Deacons Meeting  
 Sunday, February 26 – J’s Mini Mart

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

**Ushers:** Christian & Theone Albano, Wayne & Clarice Suzuki, Amy Shiroma

**Flowers:** Biff and Anna Kennedy

**Choir Director:** Rachel Edwards

**Choir Accompanist:** Kanako Okita

**Organist:** Kayleen Yuda

**Childcare Coordinator:** Evonne Shiohita

**Childcare:** Irene Okada

**Moderator:** Gloria Kobayashi

**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
- **Rhythm & Life**, Tuesdays, 3:00 pm, Building of Faith
- **IYAA Bible Study**, Wednesdays, 7:00 pm in the Lounge
- **Ron Fujiyoshi, Ohana Ho’opakele**, Thursdays, 9 am in the Lounge
- **Qigong**, Fridays, 9:30 am in the Building of Faith

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

- **The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga** meets in the Sanctuary Sundays from 2 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