

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany, February 19, 2017

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing**

**Words of Greeting:**

Millie Daikawa

**Pastoral Welcome:**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Prelude:** Voluntary in C Major – *Crost-McAfee*

Kayleen Yuda

**Call to Worship**

**Leader:** We are called to turn the other cheek.

**People:** **We will seek to be vulnerable in our lives of faith and service.**

**Leader:** We are called to go the extra mile.

**People:** **We will be with those around us in the journeys of hope as well as fear.**

**Leader:** We are called to love those who make that so hard.

**People:** **We will rely on the One who loves us to fill us with that special grace.**

**Hymn #503:** O Savior, Let Me Walk with You (v. 1-4)

**Invocation in unison**

**God of all creation, in this hour of worship, help us to remember and learn from our past. Open our eyes and hearts to see our present through Your eyes. Open our hearts to welcome Your transforming Spirit so that our tomorrow can be all that You hope for! Amen.**

**Gloria Patri**

**WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Anthem:** Down to the River to Pray – *arr. Sheldon Curry*

Na Leo Ni`o Lani

## Time with Children

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:** Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Matthew 5:38-48

**Sermon:** The Hardest Commandment

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

## WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

**Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

### **Litany for Japanese-American Remembrance Day**

**Pastor:** We remember that time 75 years ago, when our nation was gripped with wartime fears and uncertainty. Japanese Americans needed help and protection from their neighbors, but instead experienced exile and imprisonment.

**All: Lord hear our prayers.**

**Pastor:** We again feel fear and uncertainty rising around us. We wonder if others are dangerous because they may look different, or believe differently, than we do.

**All: But then we remember, we have been here before. Loving God, give us the courage and compassion to understand, love and embrace our neighbors.**

**Pastor:** Our fear is intensified by hearing that the wartime exclusion and imprisonment of Japanese Americans is being used as "precedent" for potential registration, exclusion, imprisonment or deportation of Muslim Americans, Mexican Americans, immigrants from Syria and others.

**All:** But then we remember, we have been here before. Loving God, we know you expect us to better... we know we *can* do better. Help us to fight our fears with faith, and to build bridges instead of walls.

Pastor: We remember the dangers of racism, wartime hysteria and lack of political leadership. We seek to learn from our mistakes, to be a stronger nation and to give dignity and honor to each person, as Jesus would do.

**All:** Loving God, help us be your hands in the world. Give us the courage to stand up, speak out, and protect the dignity and rights of all of your children. Help us learn to celebrate our differences rather than fear them. Help us learn to love the whole of Your diverse creation!

**Hymn #496:** Ekolu Mea Nui (v. 1-2)

**Invitation to the Offering:**

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace” – so begins the famous prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi. We are God’s instruments when we build new relationships with those who had hated us. We are God’s instruments when we prevent harm from falling on another. And we are God’s instruments when we give, sharing what we have to feed the hungers of body, mind, and spirit. Let this morning’s offering now be received.

**Offertory:** Andante -- *Theile*

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**

**Loving God, help us be the instruments of your peace. We offer ourselves, along with our tithes and offerings, to support the coming of your reign on earth. With You, we seek to create a world where all will stand together in love and dignity. Amen.**

**Hymn #407:** How Firm a Foundation (v. 1-2, 5)

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction Response #580: O Kou Aloha No (v. 1)**

**Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

**Postlude:** Festival March -- *Stickler*

Kayleen Yuda

**Special Announcement**

A Special Film: “*Valentino’s Ghost: Why We Hate Arabs*”, presented by Global Hope and Jewish Voice for Peace. Thursday, February 23rd, UH Hilo, Room UCB 100. Intended to oppose anti-Muslim prejudice, the film uses historic news clips and scenes from Hollywood movies to show the way mainstream media and Hollywood have falsely stereotyped Arabs, Palestinians, and American wars in the Middle East.

**Dates to Remember**

Today, February 19 – Deacons Meeting

Today, February 19 – Refreshments served after worship. Please join us.

Sunday, February 26 – J’s Mini Mart

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

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

**Lay Reader:** Millie Daikawa

**Flowers:** Biff and Anna Kennedy

**Refreshments:** Esther Kodani, Moira Tanaka, Connie Yoshiyama

**Choir Director:** Rachel Edwards

**Choir Accompanist:** Kanako Okita

**Organist:** Kayleen Yuda

**Childcare Coordinator:** Evonne Shioshita

**Childcare:** Cindy Debus

**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, 7:30 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