

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Second Sunday in Lent, March 12, 2017

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing**

**Words of Greeting:**

Anne Sadayasu

**Pastoral Welcome:**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Prelude:** Impromptu -- *Denton*

Kayleen Yuda

**Call to Worship**

Leader: O God, you send us out, like Abram and Sarai

**People: We travel by day, in confidence**

Leader: You draw us close, like Nicodemus

**People: We travel by night, with questions**

Leader: With our hopes and our doubts

**People: We embark on our journeys of faith**

Leader: With the saints of every age

**People: We seek the way that leads into your love**

Leader: We pause on our journey to praise you.

**People: And rejoice to find you with us, guiding every step**

**Hymn #449:** Softly and Tenderly (v. 1-2, 4)

**Invocation in unison**

**Beckoning God, You plant in us urgent questions, wonderings, calls, that lead us to You. You gather us into your Church: Prophets and Ponderers; Travelers and Builders; You make room for us and challenge us to be your Beloved Community. Bless us so**

**that we may become a blessing in your world, Doing your work of Justice, Hope, Truth, among all. Amen.**

**Gloria Patri**

**WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Anthem:** Go Into the World – *Natalie Sleeth*

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.**

**Scripture:** John 3:1-17

**Sermon:** "Please God: Not a Fresh Start"

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED**

**Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Hymn #605:** As Moses Raised the Serpent Up (v. 1-3)

**Invitation to the Offering:**

God invites us, over and over, to new beginnings, to leave aside old understandings, to shed the skins that would prevent us from growing. In this time, let us cast aside some of the wealth and substance that we value, to make space in our souls and to give glory to God in the giving. Let this morning's offering now be received.

**Offertory:** A Sound of Bells -- *Simone*

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**

**Holy One, you have summoned us to life, for which we thank you. You have summoned us to the life of faith, for which we thank you. You have summoned us to the life of giving, for which we thank you, and from which we extend these gifts. As you have blessed our lives, so may the lives of many more be blessed, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Hymn #580:** O Kou Aloha No (v. 1-4)

**Benediction**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Choral Benediction Response #466:** Unto the Hills We Lift Our Longing Eyes (v. 1)

**Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

**Postlude:** Fanfare and March – *Purcell-Blake*

Kayleen Yuda

**Dates to Remember**

Today, March 12 – Council Meeting  
Saturday, March 18 – Trustees Service Day  
Sunday, March 19 – Deacons Meeting

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

**Ushers:** John Narruhn, Jason Rekis, Stuart Mori, Molina Rekis

**Lay Reader:** Anne Sadayasu

**Flowers:** Carolyn Lum-Bellem

**Choir Director:** Rachel Edwards

**Choir Accompanist:** Kanako Okita

**Organist:** Kayleen Yuda

**Childcare Coordinator:** Evonne Shioshita

**Childcare:** Moira Tanaka

**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** worships 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** – worships in the Building of Faith Sundays at 10 am.  
**Rev. Bensis Henry, Rev. Henry Wilson**
- **Congregational Christian Church of American Samoan** worships in the sanctuary, Sundays at 12.  
**Rev. Ausage Lelili'o and Rev. Rae Lelili'o**
- **The Bedesta Church** worships in the Building of Faith, Sundays at 1:30 pm.  
**Rev. Edmes Edwin**
- **First Marshallse Assembly of God**, worships in the sanctuary, Sundays at 4 pm.  
**Rev. Brandy Karben**
- **Muslim Community Group** worships in the Building of Faith Meeting Room, Fridays at 1:00