

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 26, 2017

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing

Words of Greeting

Jane Kawazoe

Pastoral Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Prelude: Lift Thine Eyes – *Mendelssohn-Broughton*

Kayleen Yuda

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

Call to Worship:

Leader: Praise God!

Left Side (Hamakua): We praise you, our God, and we bless your name forever and ever.

Right Side (Puna): Every day we will bless you, and praise your name.

Adults: Great are you, God, and greatly to be praised.

Children: Your greatness is unsearchable.

Right Side (Puna): You are near to all who call on you.

Left Side (Hamakua): To all who call on you in truth,

All: Praise God!

Hymn #479: God Is My Shepherd (v. 1-5)

Invocation in unison

Saving God, we gather to proclaim your power, knowing that your words are faithful and your deeds are gracious. We stand in awe of your wondrous works. Still-speaking God, we gather to listen for your voice. Speak to us in scripture, song, and silence. Show us the way to love, not just in word and speech, but in truth and action. Show us where you want to lead us. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem

IYAA

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 9:1-41

Sermon: "Blessings the Wrong Way"

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Please remain seated for the hymn

Hymn #215 (Praise hymnal): Open our Eyes (repeat to sing two times)

Invitation to the Offering

God has given us so many blessings. The food we eat, the friends and family we cherish, the precious gift of God’s love for us, a love that led Jesus to lay down his life for us. When that love abides in us, we cannot refuse to help our brothers and sisters in need. Through our regular offerings we support those who lack a home, those suffering from serious illness, and those who seek education in pastoral leadership. Through the special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing, we join with other Christians to make our presence known to people near and far who might feel forgotten—the hungry, the hurting, the thirsty, the sick. Our gifts, together, provide food, shelter, comfort, and safety all over the world. Let this morning’s offering now be received.

Offertory: Father, We Praise Thee -- *Price*

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

Gracious God, in our offering on this One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday we return to you a portion of the blessings you have showered upon us. Bless these gifts, that they might bring comfort, food and shelter to those who need it. Bless those who will receive them. Let them know your love through full bellies, warm clothing, and safe places to sleep. Amen.

Hymn #584: I Am the Light of the World (v. 2-4)

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Choral Benediction Response #547: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (v. 1)

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Postlude: Fancfare and Statement on “Llanfair” — *Broughton*

Kayleen Yuda

Dates to Remember

- Today, March 26 – Signing of petition “Regarding Our Solidarity with Immigrants” located at the entrance of the sanctuary
- Today, March 26 – Donation of children’s size rubber slippers begins.
- Today, March 26 – Deacons Meeting after worship
- Today, March 26 – Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing
- Today, March 26 – J’s Mini-Mart
- Today, March 26 – Last day to order Easter lilies. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside.

Special Announcements

We humbly ask for your signature of support on our Petition “Regarding Our Solidarity With Immigrants.” The Petition is located at the tables at the entrance of the sanctuary. We will continue to gather signatures through April 2, 2017.

We are collecting rubber slippers in elementary school sizes beginning today, March 26 through Easter Sunday April 16 as part of a developing effort to address the needs of homeless families and children in our community. Please join us.

Minister: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

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

Lay Reader: Jane Kawazoe

Flowers: Margaret Torigoe

Choir Director: Rachel Edwards

Choir Accompanist: Kanako Okita

Organist: Kayleen Yuda

Childcare Coordinator: Evonne Shiohita

Childcare: Joyce Nakamoto

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