

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing

Words of Greeting

Mary Ann Katayama

Pastoral Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Prelude: The Faithful Shepherd--*Blake*

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the First Advent Candle (Hope): Marusek Family

Family Member: Hope is a seed, waiting to grow.

Family Member: Hope is a shoot, waiting to blossom.

Family Member: Hope is a flower, waiting to bear fruit.

Family Member: Hope is a fruit, bearing seeds of promise.

All: Hope is a seed, a shoot, a flower, a fruit, and a seed: a cycle of promise, fulfillment, and promise again.

All sing:

In sorrow, loss, and illness, we yet know

That in God's heart are mercies yet to grow.

We set this candle flame alight

Proclaiming that our hope is shining bright.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to you, O Israel!

Family Member: With this first candle of Advent, we kindle a light for hope. This light shines for hopes fulfilled in the past. This light shines for hopes to be fulfilled in the future. This light shines for hopes whose fulfillment relies on us. This light shines for hopes that can only be fulfilled by the grace of God.

Hymn #86: When Morning Gilds the Skies (v. 1, 3-4)

Invocation in unison:

Holy One, all too frequently our hope flickers dimly like a candle in the wind. We barely feel its warmth. Feed our hope for justice with justice. Feed our hope for healing with healing. Feed our hope for love with love, in the name of the One who came to meet all hopes, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Be A Candle of Hope – *Becky Slagle Mayo* 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: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: Attention, Distraction, Attention, Distraction

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Hymn #112: Keep Awake, Be Always Ready (v. 1-2)

Invitation to the Offering

We will not always be ready, with everything at hand we need, when a cry for help comes. Sadly, the world is not so simple. But with these gifts, we prepare our church to be ready when the need arises, and to be our helping hands. Let our offering now be received.

Offertory: Blessed Jesu – *Bach-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:

So many live in hope, O God: Hope that you will hear their prayers, heal their wounds, and relieve their distress. By these gifts, may we be part of your response, and by our lives, may we further be your blessing to our families, friends, and community. Amen.

Hymn #345: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (v. 1-2, 3)

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Consecrating the Bread and Cup

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Please come forward, as you are able, to share in the bread of life and the cup of salvation. If you wish we will serve you in your seat. Following communion please form a fellowship circle around the sanctuary.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn #337: Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether (v. 1-3)

Benediction:

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Choral Benediction Response #116: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1)

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Postlude: Praise Him With the Sound of the Trumpet -- *Simone*

Kayleen Yuda

Dates to Remember

Today, December 3 – Trustees Meeting after worship

Today, December 3 – Communion

Today, December 3 – Last day to order poinsettias chapel decorations-- \$10.95 each.

Please make checks payable to Cynthia Debus; plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service on December 24th.

Monday, December 4 – The Gathering Place—Gardening and ukulele

Minister: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator: Gloria Kobayashi

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Susumu Yamane

Ushers: Newton & Roberta Chu, Moira Tanaka, Carolyn Lum-Bellem, Ruth Niino-DuPonte

Lay Reader: Mary Ann Katayama

Flowers: Sachi Ohata & Ruth Ohara

Choir Director: Rachel Edwards

Choir Accompanist: Kanako Okita

Organist: Kayleen Yuda

Hand Bell Director: Anna Kennedy

Childcare Coordinator: Evonne Shiohita

Childcare: Ethel Yoshimasu

Pre-Service Music: Bob and Sue Smith

Projected Imagery: Sue Smith

Web Master: Ruth Niino-DuPonte

Office Manager: Pearl “Momi” Lyman

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 p.m., Building of Faith

▪ **Choir Practice:** Tuesdays, 4:30 pm, Sundays, 8:30 am, Sanctuary

- **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 Practice**: Fridays, 2 pm, in J's Café

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 Meeting Room of the Building of Faith Sundays at 10 am.
Rev. Bensis Henry
- **Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa** worship in the sanctuary, Sundays at 12 noon.
Rev. Ausage Lelili'o and Rev. Rae Lelili'o
- **The Bedesta Church** worship in the Meeting Room of the Building of Faith, Sundays at 1:30 pm.
Rev. Edmes Edwin
- **Muslim Community Group** worship in the Building of Faith Meeting Room, Fridays at 1:00 pm.