

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2017

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing**

**Words of Greeting**

Jayson Rekis

**Pastoral Welcome**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Prelude:** Oh, Come Emmanuel – *Held*

Kayleen Yuda

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle (Hope): Rekis family**

Family Member: Peace is a root, sustaining the tree.

Family Member: Peace is a trunk, sustaining the branches.

Family Member: Peace is a branch, sustaining its fruit.

Family Member: Peace is a fruit, sustaining the seeds of tomorrow's forest.

**All: Peace is a root, a trunk, a branch, a fruit, and a seed: each one sustaining the life borne upon it; each one enabling the growth up above.**

All Sing:

**Imagine just how marvelous our life**

**Could be without the misery of strife.**

**O God, let war and violence cease**

**And yield their rule unto the Prince of Peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**Shall come to you, O Israel!**

Family Member: With this second candle of Advent, we kindle a light for peace. This light shines for peace within the human heart. This light shines for peace within each of our families. This light shines for peace among the nations. This light shines for the peace that can only be fulfilled by the grace of God.

**Hymn #101:** Comfort, Comfort O My People (v. 1-3)

**Invocation in Unison:**

**O God, let us have peace. Let us have the peace that passes all understanding. Let us have peace in which all living things may grow. Let us have peace so that your world may rejoice. O God, let us have peace. 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:** Donna Nobis Pacem – *Harry Robert Wilson*

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:** Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

**Sermon:** The Best Highway

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED**

**Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People**

**Hymn #108:** Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old (v. 1-4)

**Reception of New Members**

Nalyn Ang (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Ming Peng (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Invitation

Questions of the Candidates

Sharing of the Covenant

**All: We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God. We agree to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the entire world, while worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did those who came before us, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.**

Welcome

Pastor: Let us, the members of Church of the Holy Cross UCC, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Prayer

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

### **Invitation to the Offering**

The prophets proclaimed a day of peace, not just as a vision of the future, but as the fervent desire of God. With our gifts today, let us proclaim a day of peace, not as a vision of the future, but as a plan from which we will build. Let us give, and let us build peace. Let our offering now be received.

**Offertory:** *Shepherds – Held*

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:**

**May the gifts we offer smooth the way for those who struggle, rebuild the lives of those who have fallen, and bring grace and comfort to all your people, loving God, we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn #122:** Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (v. 1-3)

**Benediction**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Choral Benediction Response #116:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 7)

**Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

**Postlude:** Jubilate – *Deo Vann*

Kayleen Yuda

### **Special Announcements**

Please bring non-perishable food items and toiletries to put under our *Giving Tree* located at the entrance to the sanctuary. The food will be given to the Food Bank and the toiletries will go to Hope Services for the homeless.

Poinsettias purchased may be taken home after Christmas Eve service on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Dates to Remember**

Today, December 10 – Christmas caroling. Refreshments after.

Monday, December 11 – The Gathering Place—Potluck after the movie “White Christmas”. Come for the movie and/or potluck. Bring a dish to share

**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:** Jayson Rekis

**Flowers:** Beverly Dodo

**Choir Director:** Rachel Edwards

**Choir Accompanist:** Kanako Okita

**Organist:** Kayleen Yuda

**Hand Bell Director:** Anna Kennedy

**Childcare Coordinator:** Evonne Shioshita

**Childcare:** Jennifer Tanouye

**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.