

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2017

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing**

**Words of Greeting**

Woody Kita

**Pastoral Welcome**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Prelude:** Infant Holy, Infant Lowly—*arr. Wood*

Kayleen Yuda

**Introit:** Be A Candle of Hope – *Becky Slagle Mayo*

Na Leo Ni`o Lani

**Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle (Love): Tanouye Family**

Family Member: Love is sharing a drink of water with a stranger.

Family Member: Love is the bond through which families meet their needs.

Family Member: Love is the embrace that comforts in sorrow.

Family Member: Love is the infant, new-born and crying, who sets our hearts to sing.

**All: Love is sharing, a bond, embraces, and a child: Caring, connection, demonstration,  
and growing. Love is greater even than these, for God is love, and love is God, and  
in God's love we live and move and have our being.**

All Sing:

**And now the birth of love draws nigh**

**As angels wait to soar into the sky.**

**Creation longs to welcome the babe**

**Whom Mary bears all people to save.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

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

Family Member: With this fourth candle of Advent, we kindle a light for love. This light shines for the love that anchors families. This light shines for the love that brings aid to a neighbor or friend. This light shines for the love that prompts us to build a

society in which need is no more. This light shines for the love who has come to us from God: Christ Jesus, our infant Redeemer.

**Hymn #146:** Nu Oli (v. 1 Hawaiian, v. 1 English, v. 2-3)

**Invocation:**

**Four lights a-glimmer in our wreath, O God; four truths represented by flickering flames. For the hope you nurture within us, for the peace you call us to bring, for the joy which empowers our singing, and for the love you shower upon us each and every day, we give you thanks. Accept the glow of our Advent wreath and of our grateful hearts as we lift our praise to you. 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.**

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38

**Sermon:** Just a Brief Pause

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Installation of Officers

## WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

**Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Hymn #105:** Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear (v. 1-3)

### **Invitation to the Offering:**

As Mary gave herself in love to the promises of God, as Jesus came in weakness to be the love of God, so let us bring our gifts now: to give of our daily work, and to be a part of the body of Christ, God's love in the world. Let our offering now be received.

**Offertory:** The Quiet Carol – *arr. 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:**

**God, we know that you are love. Accept these gifts out of your love for us, and bless them. Bless them to be our love for our neighbors, and for the stranger. Bless them to be your love, incarnate in our hands. And bless us, too, great God of love. Amen.**

**Hymn #129:** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (v. 1-3)

### **Benediction**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Choral Benediction Response #116:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 6)

### **Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

**Postlude:** Joy to the World – *arr. Ritter*

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 candle light service.

### Dates to Remember

Today, December 24 – Deacons Meeting after worship

Today, December 24 – Installation of Officers and Board Members

Today, December 24 – Christmas Offering

Today, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight worship

Monday, December 25 – The Gathering Place will not be meeting

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

**Moderator:** Gloria Kobayashi

**Minister Emeritus:** Rev. Susumu Yamane

**Ushers:** Newton & Roberta Chu, Moira Tanaka, Ruth Niino-DuPonte

**Lay Reader:** Woody Kita

**Flowers:** Cindy Debus

**Choir Director:** Rachel Edwards

**Choir Accompanist:** Kanako Okita

**Organist:** Kayleen Yuda

**Hand Bell Director:** Anna Kennedy

**Childcare Coordinator:** Evonne Shioshita

**Childcare:** Erin Okuda

**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
- **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
- **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.