

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
First Sunday of Christmas, December 31, 2017

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing**

**Words of Greeting**

Gloria Kobayashi

**Pastoral Welcome:**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Prelude:** O Come All Ye Faithful – *arr. Innes*

Kayleen Yuda

**Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Let them praise the name of God, for God commanded, and they were created.

**People:** **God established them forever and ever; fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

**Leader:** Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

**People:** **Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

**Leader:** Sovereigns of the earth and all people, royalty and all rulers of the earth!

**All:** **Young men and women alike, old and young together! Praise the name of God!**

**Hymn #160:** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World) (v. 1-3)

**Invocation:**

**O God, help us to rejoice in you. Clothe us in righteousness and praise. Orient our thoughts to you. Open our lives to your coming and your life-changing presence in our midst. Stir us to set down what find most important to take up what you give us as new life-giving work and ministry, that our life together might give you glory and joy. 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**

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: Luke 2:22-40**

**Sermon: Recognition**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED**

**Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Hymn #148: What Child Is This (v. 1-3)**

**Invitation to the Offering**

The wonder of giving is that it never entirely ends. Giving strengthens relationships, and in them plants the seeds of renewed giving. God's gifts to us are like that: each one draws us nearer to God. Let us now bring our gifts, and in so doing, let us draw nearer still. Let our offering now be received.

**Offertory: Cradle Song (arr. Young)**

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:**

**You came to us in Jesus, Author of the heavens, and shared the moments of our lives.  
Accept these gifts, O Holy One, with the simple gratitude of that Holy Child, and  
embrace us once again with your gentleness and love. Amen.**

**Hymn #584: I Am the Light of the World (v. 1-3)**

**Benediction**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Choral Benediction Response #584: I Am the Light of the World (v. 4)**

**Extinguishing of the Altar Candles**

**Postlude: Nowell! Nowell! Cold German Chorale (arr. J.S. Bach)**

Kayleen Yuda

**Dates to Remember**

Monday, January 1 – The Gathering Place will not be meeting. We will resume on  
Monday, January 8th and will be viewing the movie “Guarding Tess”. Please join  
us if you are able to.

Sunday, January 7 – Communion

Sunday, January 7 – Sermon by guest preacher Rev. Dr. Chris S. Davies

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

**Moderator:** Gloria Kobayashi

**Minister Emeritus:** Rev. Susumu Yamane

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

**Lay Reader:** Gloria Kobayashi

**Flowers:** Margaret Torigoe

**Choir Director:** Rachel Edwards

**Choir Accompanist:** Kanako Okita

**Organist:** Kayleen Yuda

**Hand Bell Director:** Anna Kennedy

**Childcare Coordinator:** Evonne Shiohita

**Childcare:** Cindy Debus  
**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

- **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.