

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, 2018

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: O Come, Little Children – *Schulz—arr. Wood*

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Advent Candles (Love): Eric Anderson family

Anderson Family: Time and time again, the Scriptures celebrate the steadfast love of the Lord. Genesis praises God's steadfast love for Abraham, and the first letter of John declares that God is love. In Christ, God's love took form in new and precious ways, in baby's cry and preacher's word, in meals and healings, and upon a lonely cross.

All Sing:

How strange that you should care for us

Creator of the spheres,

Enough to take on human form

And share our human years.

To know the joys of human life,

The taste of human tears.

Tune: BROTHER JAMES' AIR

Anderson Family: In the first candle of Advent, we declare our Hope. In the second candle of Advent, we declare our commitment to Peace. In the third candle of Advent, we proclaim our Joy. Now we light the tender flame of God's eternal love. This candle glows for those who think they are alone. This candle glows for those who think that love is powerless. This candle glows for those who cringe before anger. This candle glows for those whom Jesus came to save.

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

Invocation

God of Joseph, God of Mary, help us live in confidence of your eternal love. In that confidence, may we find courage now and always to forgive when others disappoint us. In that confidence, may we find openness to consider others' needs. In that confidence, may we trust in others' love, and meet new circumstances and new challenges empowered by your ever-present grace. 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: Angels from the Realms of Glory *arr. Anna Laura Page* Hand Bell Choir

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.**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Welcome

Johanna Narruhn

Hymn: Mary Had a Baby (v. 1)

The Birth

Mace Peng

Hymn #138: Jesus Our Brother, Strong and Good (v. 1-2)

The Animals

Eli Yamaki

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v. 1)

The Angels

Johanna Narruhn

Hymn #154: Go Tell It on the Mountain (v. 1)

The Shepherds

Mace Peng

Hymn: We Three Kings (v. 1)

The Magi

Eli Yamaki

Hymn: Joy to the World! (v. 1-2)

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People

Invitation to the Offering:

God gave us Jesus. Mary gave us Jesus. Jesus gave himself. Angels gave song. Shepherds gave testimony. Wise people gave gifts. Let us join in the giving: let our offering now be received.

Offertory

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 of the angels, God of the shepherds, God of the creatures, and God of the child:
bless these gifts we present to you. Bless all the earth with your steadfast, bountiful
love. Amen.**

Hymn #124: Away in a Manger (v. 1-3)

Benediction

Choral Benediction Response #132: Joy to the World! (v. 3)

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

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

Kayleen Yuda

At the organist's request, please refrain from applause after the Postlude.

Dates to Remember

Today, December 23 – Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 23 – Deacons meeting after Worship

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 7 PM

Minister: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator: Gloria Kobayashi

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

Lay Reader: Woody Kita

Flowers: Cindy Debus

Choir Accompanist: Kanako Okita

Organist: Kayleen Yuda

Hand Bell Director: Anna Kennedy

Childcare Coordinator: Evonne Shiohita

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
- **UCCP Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 6:00 pm – J's Cafe
- **IYAA Bible Study,** Wednesdays, 7:30 pm in the Lounge

Other Faith Groups that meet at Church of the Holy Cross

- **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

- **Islamic Center of Hawaii** worship in the Meeting Room, Fridays at 12 noon.

Dr. Shawon Rahman