

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2019

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing

Words of Greeting
Pastoral Welcome

Mary Ann Katayama
Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Prelude: The Advent Carol – *Mendelssohn, arr. Porter*

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Advent Candles (Reilly and Faith Narruhn family)

Leader: The Scriptures are filled with visions. Some prophets looked ahead to tragedy, and others to triumph. Isaiah envisioned a world unlike the one in which he lived, filled with sickness and war. “They shall beat their swords into plowshares,” he wrote, “and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” He never saw such a day. He hoped for it. We hope for such a day to come soon.

All Sing:

**Share with us a wondrous seed
that will blossom in time of need.
The bloom of hope will sustain us here
as we await the blessed child of Mary.**

Tune: JOSEPH LIEBER, JOSEPH MEIN 7.8.8.11.

Leader: With this first Advent candle, we kindle a light for hope. This light shines for those lost in shadow. This light shines for those oppressed in spirit. This light shines for those who can no longer imagine a better day. This light shines for hope.

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

Invocation

Holy and Gracious God, restore the hopes of those who despair. Revive the fainting spirits, the suffering hearts. Reply to the near-silenced prayers so that all may see there is reason for hope. 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

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: Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon: What Does it Take to Be Ready?

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People

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

Invitation to the Offering:

Our hope is in God. That is what the Scriptures tell us. Our hope is in God. That is what our spiritual ancestors tell us. Our hope is in God. That is what our hearts tell us. Our hope is in God. Let us bring our thanksgiving for our hope. Let our offering now be received.

Offertory: Pastorale -- *Martin*

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

Please join me in the Prayer of Dedication

Thank you for the hope you give us, God. Thank you for the way you fulfill our hopes: in guidance, in strength, and in the gift of Jesus Christ. Accept these gifts we offer from our thanks and in our hope. Amen.

Hymn #345: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (v. 1-3)**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, then return to your pew and remain standing. If you wish to receive communion in your seat, please remain seated, and we will come to you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving**Closing Hymn #116:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1-2, 4)**Benediction****Choral Benediction Response #116:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 6)**Extinguishing of the Altar Candles****Postlude:** O Blessed Emmanuel – *Bach, arr. Thompson*

Kayleen Yuda

Dates to Remember

Today, December 1 – Trustees meeting after worship

Monday, December 2 – The Gathering Place, socialization and Christmas songs at 9 a.m., pickleball at 1 p.m. in the Building of Faith.

Sunday, December 8 – Council meeting after worship

Sunday, December 8 – Dedication of the Christmas Fund

Minister: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator: Bob Smith

Ushers: Moira Tanaka, Ruth Niino-DuPonte, Ming Peng, Nalyn Ang, Stefan & Jennifer Tanouye

Lay Reader: Mary Ann Katayama

Flowers: Sachi & Ruth Ohata

Choir Accompanist: Kanako Okita

Choir Director: Doug Albertson

Organist: Kayleen Yuda

Hand Bell Director: Anna Kennedy

Childcare Coordinator: Evonne Shioshita

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 study

▪ **The Gathering Place** – 9:00 a.m. every Monday with various activities such as singing, socialization, movies, games. Pickleball at 1:00 p.m. in the Building of Faith.

▪ **Pastor’s Prayer Group** – 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of every month in Pastor’s study

▪ **Choir Rehearsal** – Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. in the lounge & Sundays, 9 a.m. in the lounge

▪ **Christmas Singers Rehearsal** – Tuesdays, 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

▪ **United Church of Christ Pohnpei Bible Study** – Wednesdays, 6 p.m. in J’s Café

▪ **IYAA Bible Study** -- Wednesdays, 7:00 pm in the Lounge

▪ **Hand Bell Choir Practice** -- Fridays, 2:00 pm in the sanctuary

▪ **Community Sing** -- 2nd & 4th Fridays, 6:00 pm in sanctuary