

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Pre-Service Music – Congregational singing

Words of Greeting

Nalyn Ang

Pastoral Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Prelude: He Whispered "Peace be Still" -- *Griggs*

Timothy Nakamoto

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Advent Candles Ming Peng and Nalyn Ang family

Leader: When the ancient prophet envisioned great joy, it was not just the smiling faces of people before his eyes. "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad," he wrote, "the desert shall rejoice and blossom." He even imagined the flowering desert singing, making melodies of praise and thanks and joy. The joy of our Redeemer is not just a joy for a few people. It is not just a joy for many people. It is not even just a joy for all people. The joy of our Redeemer is a joy for all Creation.

All Sing:

**Ocean waves shall leap in praise,
stars shall twinkle their grandest rays,
joy abundant shall hearts amaze
when Christ is born, the blessed child of Mary.**

Tune: JOSEPH LIEBER, JOSEPH MEIN 7.8.8.11.

Leader: We have lit the Advent candle of Hope. We have lit the Advent candle of Peace. Now we light the Advent candle of Joy: the Joy that exists, and the Joy still to come. This light shines for those oppressed by misfortune and human malice. This light shines for a Creation mistreated by those who call it home. This light shines for a young woman who trusted in a promise and rejoiced in God, our Savior. This light shines for Joy.

Hymn #119: My Soul Gives Glory to My God (v. 1-5)

Invocation

Our hearts are light in part, and heavy in part, O God. We are merry in our loves and successes, and we grieve in our losses and our needs. Rekindle Joy within us, O God. Rekindle a Joy that holds fast to the love you bear us. Rekindle a Joy that withstands the struggles we endure. Rekindle a Joy that wells up so greatly as to water a desert of suffering, bring it to blossom, and hear Creation's joyful song. 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: Julpsalm Carol – *Juan Sibelius, arr. Gordon Bryans*

Na Leo Ni`o Lani

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

Carol #133: O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1-2, 4)

The Stable of Bethlehem

Carol #124: Away in a Manger (v. 1-2)

The Angels' Song

Carol #144: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v. 1, 3)

The Shepherds

Carol #154: Go Tell It on the Mountain (v. 1-2)

The Wise Men

Carol #132: Joy to the World! (v. 1-3)

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People

Invitation to the Offering:

In the letter of James, we find these words: “The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.” Amidst their patience, farmers are also active. They plant. They weed. They nourish. Let your gift be inspired by the farmer. Make things happen and make things grow that bring joy to our God. Let our offering now be received.

Offertory

Handbell Choir

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

To you, O God, we present these gifts as a farmer nourishes the earth. By your grace, help our gifts to grow into a great harvest of righteousness and joy. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Hymn #129: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (v. 1-2)

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

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

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Postlude: Noel Nouvelet (*French Carol*) arr. Wood

Kayleen Yuda

Dates to Remember

Today, December 15 – Christmas Pageant during worship

Today, December 15 – Holy Listening after worship in the Building of Faith

Monday, December 16 – The Gathering Place, socialization and games at 9 a.m.,
pickleball at 1 p.m. in the Building of Faith.

Minister: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator: Bob Smith

Ushers: Moira Tanaka, Ruth Niino-DuPonte, Stefan & Jennifer Tanouye

Lay Reader: Nalyn Ang

Flowers: Jean Kita

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