

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2019

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: The Birthday of a King/There's a Song in the Air/The First Noel—*arr. Whitworth*

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Advent Candles (Jonathan and Remi Tanouye Family)

Leader: Would you dare to ask for a sign of God's love? "Behold, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." Each child is a testimony to God's love. Each raindrop is a testimony to God's love. Each grain of sand upon the beach is a testimony to God's love. All creation cries, "The love of the LORD is here!"

All Sing:

**On the earth's revolving sphere,
in the heavens God's love is clear,
for the promise of ages nears
as Christ is born, the blessed child of Mary.**

Tune: JOSEPH LIEBER, JOSEPH MEIN 7.8.8.11.

Leader: Again we light the Advent candles of Hope, of Peace, and of Joy. Today we complete the circle with the fire of love. This is love free from selfishness and greed. This is love free from ignorance and limitations. This is love to embrace a child, a family, a nation, a world, even a universe. This is love to overwhelm the powers of evil. This is love as tiny as an atom, and as great as existence itself. This candle shines for love.

Hymn #121: Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting) (v. 1 Spanish, v. 1-2 English)

Invocation :

You might have come in majesty and might, O God. You might have come in war and in wrath. You might have come in fire and in fury. We would have recognized these

signs. Instead, Emmanuel, “God with us,” is a newborn child. In humility and in amazement we recognize this sign of your holiness, your presence, and your everlasting love. 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: Advent Candlelight Carol – *arr. Anna Page & Jean Shafferman* Na Leo Ni`o Lani

Time with Children

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 1:18-25

Sermon: God With Us

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of People

Installation of Church Officers and Leaders

Pastor: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: **There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

Pastor: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

People: **The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.**

Pastor: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

Pastor: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

People: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is part of it.

Presentation

Covenant

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered.

Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Lay Leaders: I am.

Pastor: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing for the love of Christ?

Lay Leaders: I do, relying on God's grace.

Pastor: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our covenant with them in prayer:

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in your duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before us. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Church of the Holy Cross United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce: You are installed in your respective positions. Let all the people say:

All: Thanks be to God!

Hymn #148: What Child Is This? (v. 1, 3)

Invitation to the Offering:

For love of us, God came to us in Jesus. For love of us, God gave all. Let us show our love in this moment. Let us love and give. Let our offering now be received.

Offertory: Do You Hear What I Hear—*arr. Regney & Shayna*

Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost – Amen

Prayer of Dedication

We rejoice in your love, O God. We take comfort in your embrace. Receive in these gifts a symbol of our love for you. Receive in these gifts our embrace. Amen.

Hymn #146: Nu Oli (Glad Tidings) (v. 1 Hawaiian, v. 1 English, v. 2 Hawaiian)

Benediction

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

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Postlude: Christmas Joy – *Blake*

Kayleen Yuda

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, December 24 – Candle light service at 7 p.m., refreshments to follow in the Building of Faith

Minister: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator: Bob Smith

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

Lay Reader: Woody Kita

Flowers: Cindy Debus

Choir Accompanist: Kanako Okita

Choir Director: Doug Albertson

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

- **The Gathering Place** – Resumes Monday, January 13th at 9 a.m. **Pickleball** – 1:00 p.m. in the Building of Faith
- **Choir Rehearsal** – Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. in the lounge & Sundays, 9 a.m. in the lounge

- **IYAA Bible Study** -- Wednesdays, 7:00 pm in the Lounge
- **Hand Bell Choir Practice** -- Fridays, 2:00 pm in the sanctuary