

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Online Worship, November 1, 2020  
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Communion

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Welcome**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Prelude:** Simple Gifts—(American Shaker Song) arr. Jordan

Kayleen Yuda

**Call to Worship:** *Based on 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13*

Bob Smith

Leader: We work each day to meet our needs. And we work each day to share the good news of God.

**All: May those around us bear witness to our actions. May they find that we are upright and true.**

Leader: May we be as tender as a mother with her children,

**All: May we be as loving as a father comforting a child.**

Leader: God urges us to lead a life that is consistent with a call to a blessed realm and glory.

**All: And so in this time of worship we will give thanks for the Word we have heard and the love we have known. May it be at work in us today, tomorrow, and always.**

Leader: Let us worship.

Please join me in the Invocation: *Based Psalm 43*

**Help us, O God, amidst the struggles of this time. From those who are deceitful and unjust, deliver us. From the ungodly hardships of the world, relieve us. Send out your light and truth; may they lead us to your dwelling. In our hearts we come to your altar. We praise you with the harps of our spirits. Though our souls may be cast down, we hope in you, O God. Once again we praise you, our help and our God. Amen.**

**Hymn Duet #539** Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

Eric Anderson

Doug Albertson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

**Scripture:**

Bob Smith

Micah 3:5-12

Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets  
who lead my people astray,

who cry "Peace"  
when they have something to eat,  
but declare war against those  
who put nothing into their mouths.  
Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,  
and darkness to you, without revelation.  
The sun shall go down upon the prophets,  
and the day shall be black over them;  
the seers shall be disgraced,  
and the diviners put to shame;  
they shall all cover their lips,  
for there is no answer from God.  
But as for me, I am filled with power,  
with the spirit of the LORD,  
and with justice and might,  
to declare to Jacob his transgression  
and to Israel his sin.  
Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob  
and chiefs of the house of Israel,  
who abhor justice  
and pervert all equity,  
who build Zion with blood  
and Jerusalem with wrong!  
Its rulers give judgment for a bribe,  
its priests teach for a price,  
its prophets give oracles for money;  
yet they lean upon the LORD and say,  
"Surely the LORD is with us!  
No harm shall come upon us."  
Therefore because of you  
Zion shall be plowed as a field;  
Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,  
and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

#### Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one

instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

**Story/Sermon:** Not Like Them

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Please join me in the Lord's Prayer**

**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**

**Instrumental Anthem:** Fantasia in D minor, K.397—Mozart Kanako Okita

**Call to Offering:**

Bob Smith

We invite you to an offering. Let these be gifts of the heart that extend your love and compassion to your neighbors and your friends, and also to the stranger on the far side of the world. Please send them through the mail in an envelope sent to 440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i, 96720, give online at [holycrosshilo.com/donate](http://holycrosshilo.com/donate). Let us pray together:

**Offertory Prayer:**

**You warned us, O God, that there is no peace while you have children who lack food for their mouths. With these gifts, we seek to build that peace if just a little at a time. Bless these gifts as you accept them, and bless the mouths that are filled because of them. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Anthem:** As We Gather at Your Table-- Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Eric Anderson

Doug Albertson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

## **Celebration of Holy Communion**

**Invitation to Communion**

Come to the table as all saints come,  
as God's people always do,  
with love, hope, and questions –  
bricks without straw? fiery furnace?  
no-wine? five-loaves?  
who's going to wash the Passover feet?

Come to the table with your sadness –  
old or new or delayed –  
and your fear in uncertain times,  
and your imagination of possibilities

for times yet to come,  
because here you are welcome,  
in a weeping, laughing communion of saints,  
in a weeping, laughing communion ... of us.

### **Words of Remembering**

There is a sacred story that goes way back,  
older than ancestors, older than anything here,  
to wind blowing over waters.

God's love was in a garden,  
and a flood-drenched rainbow.  
God's love was in a desert tent,  
barley fields for gleaning,  
a slingshot,  
a mythically big fish  
and a way that twisted in the wilderness.

There is a sacred story that goes back  
to a mother in a barn,  
a foster father and skyfully distanced angels.

We love stories, especially this one  
of the baby named Jesus, loved  
by a cow, some magi, and many shepherds,  
who grew up, healed people,  
told awkward parables,  
and made people angry.

At Passover he broke unleavened bread.  
and poured wine and himself –  
some saints slept when he needed friends.

But the Shelter-in-every-place of Love  
gave that time full of death  
a hope of waking to Resurrection  
and an Emmaus of self-understanding.

And so now we come,  
clothed in our own sad times,  
with our cloud of witnesses to hope –  
to be nourished, and to be revived.  
Come, Lord Jesus!

## Prayer of Consecration

Pastor: Let us pray together:

**All:**

**Bless us and bless these gifts.**

**May the Spirit rest upon this time and this table,  
surrounded tenderly by those who gathered  
at sacred times and around sacred tables long ago.**

*(breaking, touching or lifting bread)*

**May this loaf be love broken for us all.**

*(pouring, touching of lifting cup)*

**May this cup be a well of blessing. Amen.**

## Sharing of the Elements *(Psalm 34)*

Leader: Taste and see that God is good. Eat this bread.

**All: Sharing love, we will never be hungry.**

*(Eat the bread)*

Leader: Happy are those who take refuge in God.

The cup on your table is blessed.

**All: Drinking deeply, we will never thirst.**

*(Drink of the cup)*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Spirit of Christ, stay with us where we stay, as familiar as our daily plates and cups. Go with us where we go, safe and full of love as the mask across our lips. May we, your eager and sometimes awkward saints, carry in us a Communion from which all can share – comfort for loss, courage for speaking, compassion for healing. We give you thanks for both the shelter and the road. Amen.**

**Announcements**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Benediction**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Postlude:** Trumpet Tune in F -- Jordan

Kayleen Yuda

The communion liturgy is slightly adapted from the work of Maren Tirabassi at [giftsinopenhands.blogspot.com](http://giftsinopenhands.blogspot.com). Used by permission of the author.

As We Gather at Your Table

Contributors: Carl P. Daw, Jr.

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The Servant Song

by Richard Gillard

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### **Dates to Remember**

Today, November 1 — Trustees meeting after worship

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

**Moderator:** Bob Smith

**Lay Reader:** Bob Smith

**Chapel Decorations:** Doreen Lucas

**Choir Accompanist:** Kanako Okita

**Choir Director:** Doug Albertson

**Organist:** Kayleen Yuda

**Hand Bell Director:** Anna Kennedy

**Childcare Coordinator:** Evonne Shiohita

**Movement Leader:** Genie Phillips

**Projected Imagery:** Sue Smith

**Web Master:** Ruth Niino-DuPonte

### **This week at the Church of the Holy Cross**

- **Bible Study with Pastor Eric:** Tuesdays, 3:00 pm via Zoom
- **Online Song --** Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. online
- **Community Concert --** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, 6:00 p.m. online