

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Online Worship, November 8, 2020
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Prelude: Brother James' Air—Dain, arr. Jordan

Kayleen Yuda

Call to Worship: *based on Psalm 78:1-7*

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

Leader: Listen, O people, to our teaching. Open your ears to the words of our mouths.

All: Tell us a story that shapes our minds. Share the wonders of old.

Leader: We will describe the things we have heard and have known.

All: We will pass them on to our children, as our parents told them to us.

Leader: God commanded the people long ago, a law that our ancestors passed on to their children,

All: So that each generation might know them, so that each generation might tell their children this simple and gracious truth: Set your hope in God. Remember the works of God. Keep to the ways of God, and rejoice.

Please join me in the Invocation: *based on Psalm 70*

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

We seek your aid in the struggles of these times, O God. Make haste to help us amidst a pandemic. May those who dismay or frighten us be persuaded to do right. Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you, O God. Let those who love your salvation say evermore that God is great! In this time, O God, we need your care. Be our help and deliverer, O God. Be our salvation. Amen.

Hymn: Duet #417 This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Eric Anderson

Doug Albertson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

Scripture:

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his

offspring many. I gave him Isaac;

“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Story/Sermon: Did We Say That?

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: Mozart piano sonata No. 16 K.545 1st movement

Kanako Okita

Call to Offering:

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

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. Let us pray together:

Offertory Prayer:

We chose you, O Jesus, as our guide and our friend. We chose you, O Creator, to believe in and trust. We chose you, O Holy Spirit, as the source of our strength. But before we chose you, you made us, you called us, and you blessed us. In these gifts, we live out a part of your call and a part of our response in faith. Amen.

Anthem: Sois la Semilla – Cesareo Gabarain

Eric Anderson

Doug Albertson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise—A Welsh hymn tune, arr. Jordan

Kayleen Yuda

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“Sois la Semilla”

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Dates to Remember

Sunday, November 15 — Council meeting after worship

Sunday, November 22 – Deacons meeting after worship

Minister: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator: Bob Smith

Lay Reader: Carolyn Lum-Bellem

Chapel Decorations: Jean Tanouye, Kelley & Stefan Tanouye Family

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 --** 2nd & 4th Fridays, 6:00 p.m. online