

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Online Worship, December 20, 2020  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Welcome:**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Prelude:** Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Polish Carol melody) arr. Wood

Kayleen Yuda

**Lay Reader:**

Barbara Iwami

In our church and homes  
we gather around wreaths  
to pray our lost hopes,  
broken peace, limited joys,  
and love so hard to find and share  
in this season of *coronavirus*.  
We affirm that our candles mean  
*we* claim the power to call this season *Advent*  
when God's light comes into the world  
nothing can overcome it.  
We light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

**Family at home:**

**We now light the candle of love  
even when many things dim our sparkling:  
reduced income from shorter working hours,  
cancelled visits with family,  
longer working hours and less time at home,  
grief for those who have gone,  
racist prejudice and sexist systems,  
failure to recognize Christ  
in every face about us.**

Lay Reader:

God's love illuminates hatred and a compassionate heart  
and brightens the path to the birth of Christ.

**All Sing:**

**Now your Maker all extol,  
Now your sorrows will God console:  
Love has come as a living soul  
In Jesus Christ, the blessed child of Mary.**

Tune: JOSEPH LIEBER, JOSEPH MEIN 7.8.8.11

Family at home:

**Emmanuel, God be with us in the week to come  
lighting hope, peace, joy, and love on the wick of our lives,  
so that we may shine on our world  
your unconditional welcome to all. Amen.**

Invocation: *based on Luke 1:46b-55*

Barbara Iwami

**We lift up our souls, O God, from all the strangeness of this season to all the wonder of your faithfulness. You have looked upon us with mercy and with kindness even when we have been less than merciful, less than kind. We see how completely we are blessed. Your mercy flows from generation to generation as you show the strength of your arm by scattering the proud in the imaginations of their hearts. The powerful have tumbled from their seats of gold as the downtrodden have risen to stand; the hungry have been filled and the rich have gone away empty. Continue to help us in remembrance of your mercy according to the promise you made to Abraham and to Mary. Amen.**

**Hymn Duet #148 What Child Is This**

Eric Anderson

Doug Albertson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

**Scripture:**

Barbara Iwami

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and

evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Story/Sermon:** The Home of the Lord

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Instrumental Anthem:** Eine Kleine Nachtmusik K.525 3rd mvt-- Mozart

Kanako Okita

**Call to Offering:**

Barbara Iwami

We invite you to an offering. God has given us the great gift of Jesus, the assurance of love, strength, and forgiveness in each day of our lives. We can never repay such a gift, but we can be inspired by it to give love, strength, and forgiveness to those around us as we give thanks and praise to God. Let us share those gifts through our church today. Please send your offering through the mail in an envelope sent to 440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i, 96720, or give online at [holycrosshilo.com/donate](http://holycrosshilo.com/donate). Let us pray together:

**Oh you who have given us love beyond measure, love beyond hope, and love even beyond our capacity for wonder, accept these gifts. Bless these expressions of our love that they might become love beyond measure, love beyond hope, and love even beyond wonder for friends, neighbors, and strangers who know us and know you through them. Amen.**

**Installation of Officers and Board Members**

**Introduction**

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

**All: 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.

**All: 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.

**All: 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.

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

### **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?

Woody Kita: I am.

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

Woody Kita: 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!**

**Anthem:** 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime--Jean de Brebeauf, trans. Jesse Edgar Middleton  
Eric Anderson  
Doug Albertson  
Movement led by Genie Phillips

**Announcements:** Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Benediction:** Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Postlude:** Postlude for Christmas (Czech Carol)-Simone

Kayleen Yuda

**Permissions:**

The Advent candle liturgy is adapted from the work of Maren Tirabassi at [giftsinopenhands.blogspot.com](http://giftsinopenhands.blogspot.com). Gratefully used by permission of the author.

**Announcement**

Pastor Eric will be on vacation from December 25<sup>th</sup> and will return to his office on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Rev. Jonathan Roach & Rev. Jihey Roach will conduct the sermons in his absence

**Minister**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Moderator**

Bob Smith

**Lay Reader**

Barbara Iwami

**Chapel Decorations**

Janet Fujioka & Cynthia Debus

**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