

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Christmas Eve Online Worship, December 24, 2020

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

**Welcome:**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Prelude:** O Come, All Ye Faithful (John Wade's Cantas Diversi), arr. Innes

Kayleen Yuda

**Carol #132:** Joy to the World

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Pastor:**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

We have gathered with candles in our homes  
and a wreath in the sanctuary this Advent.

We claim that Emmanuel, God with us,  
is the Light of the World,  
and that there is no darkness,  
no sadness, no fear, no grief,  
no illness, no loneliness, no violence,  
no word of unkindness, act of war,  
not even a pandemic,  
that can quench the Light of the World.

Let us light these candles again on this holy night.

I light the candle of hope,  
Now there is no place hopelessness can hide.  
*(light candle)*

I light the candle of peace,  
and expose hatred as fear turned inside out.  
*(light candle)*

I light the candle of joy,  
and suddenly everyone can find a smile,  
a moment of beauty or laughter.  
*(light candle)*

I light the candle of love,  
and hands are clasped around the world.  
*(light candle)*

My friends, we all light the Christ candle. Please pray with me:

**All:**

**O Holy God, we light the Christ candle.  
It shines on smiles and tears.  
It shines and we hear angels.  
It shines and we see a manger.  
It shines and we remember the story.  
This light cannot be extinguished,  
because, Emmanuel, you are the candle tonight,  
and we promise to be your candles tomorrow.**

**Amen.**

**Pastor:** Let us sing together:

**All Sing:**

**Holy One, you come to Earth,  
Stable flooded with shepherds' mirth.  
Hail the blessed Messiah's birth  
In Jesus Christ, the blessed child of Mary.**

Tune: JOSEPH LIEBER, JOSEPH MEIN 7.8.8.11

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Music:** In the Bleak Midwinter

Joanne Pocsidio

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Music:** The First Nowell

Rachel Edwards &  
Pedro Kaawaloa

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”<sup>1</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Music:** O Holy Night

Marlise Ahuna

**Meditation**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Music:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Kanako Okita

**Christmas Prayer**

Rev. Bensis Henry

**Music:** Christmas is the Time

IYAA

**Christmas Prayer**

Rev. Ausage & Rev. Rae  
Lelili’o

**Christmas Prayer**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Carol:** Silent Night

**Benediction**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Postlude:** Joy to the World/Hallelujah Chorus, arr. Whitworth Kayleen Yuda