

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Online Worship, December 27, 2020
First Sunday After Christmas

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor
Guest Pastor Rev. Jonathan Roach, PhD

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Welcome

Rev. Jonathan Roach, PhD

Prelude: What Child Is This—Rasley (English Tune, green sleeve) Kayleen Yuda

Call to Worship

Bob Smith

Leader: Jesus, our Lord, came into an indifferent world where few people noticed his arrival.

All: Mary and Joseph noticed!

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us but very few listened to the Word.

All: The Shepherds heard and listened!

Leader: Those who walked in darkness and seen a great light but most of them change their direction.

All: The Magi did and they traveled far! One: Jesus the Christ was born in Bethlehem, Prince of Peace, Mighty Counselor, the Messiah! But few gave thanks.

All: Simeon, with tears in his eyes did, the ancient Prophet Anna did, and I do...I do!

Invocation:

Bob Smith

All: Saving God-Child, the Prophet Anna and the righteous Simeon sang your praises with tears and smiles. They had waited so long to look into your eyes and in your eyes, they saw the promise of a better tomorrow, a future with hope. Like them, we have been listening for rumors of hope, reasons to get out of bed, waiting for redemption in these dark and difficult days...weeks...months... Twenty-twenty was not the year that many of us hope for last January. This was not the Christmas that many of us had dreamed about in our planning and preparation months ago. But God-Child, in your eyes we see the promise of hope, peace, love, and joy. In your eyes, we see the promise for tomorrow. And so with that promise held in our hearts, we pray in the name of Jesus, Babe of Bethlehem, and dedicate ourselves to the work of proclaiming Christmas this day and all the days ahead. Amen!

Hymn: Away in a Manger

Pre-recorded from A Very UCC
Christmas

Scripture: Luke 2:1-40

Bob Smith

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.

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.” 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.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Story/Sermon: Christmas Take Two: St. Nicholas Come Again

Rev. Jonathan Roach, PhD

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Jonathan Roach, PhD

Prayers in Silence

Pastor Prayer

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

Anthem: Some Children See Him

Mace Peng

Call to Offering:

Bob Smith

As the Earth brings forth its shoots, as seeds in the garden burst out of the ground, so too are we called to burst out and give our gifts. Ushers will not be knocking at your doors today, but we ask that you take time to give thanks and send your gifts for the Christ-Child to Church of the Holy Cross so that the gardens of God’s ministries here can bloom and thrive.

Please join me in the Offertory Prayer:

O’ little God-Child, whom angels worship, we thank you for the gifts that are given this week and dedicated these gifts that they may bring hope and light to the darkest corners of the world. Amen!

Hymn: Go Tell It on the Mountain

From A Very UCC Christmas

Announcements

Rev. Jonathan Roach, PhD

Benediction

Rev. Jonathan Roach, PhD

Postlude: Joy to the World—arr. Ritter (tune Antioch by Handel) Kayleen Yuda

Away in a Manger performed by La Muna and Antonio Moreno

Go Tell It On the Mountain performed by M.a.G.I.C., the Marquand Gospel & Inspirational Choir at Yale Divinity School

Recorded for A Very UCC Christmas; used by permission.

Announcement

Rev. Eric S. Anderson is on vacation and will return on January 5, 2021. May God's love bring you peace, love, joy and compassion, today and every day.

Minister

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Guest Minister

Rev. Jonathan Roach, PhD

Moderator

Bob Smith

Lay Reader

Bob Smith

Chapel Decorations

Laura Ota

Choir Accompanist

Kanakano 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:** Returns on January 5th, 2021
- **Online Song** – Returns on January 6th, 2021
- **Community Concert** -- 2nd & 4th Fridays, 6:00 p.m. online