

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Online Worship, January 3, 2021
Second Sunday after Christmas

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor
Guest Pastor Rev. Jihey Esther Roach

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Welcome

Rev. Jihey Esther Roach

Prelude: Hark the Herald/Angel from the Realms –arr. Whitworth

Kayleen Yuda

Call to Worship

Woody Kita

Sing praise to God, who gathers us here.

From the ends of the Earth, we come.

Give our God glory and strength!

With a word of promise, a spring of water, a loaf of bread and a cup of wine,

God turns our mourning into dancing, our sorrow into joy.

Invocation:

Woody Kita

God of grace and majesty, we thank you for choosing to walk among your people in all the circumstances of our lives. We pray that we would always be aware of your presence among us. May we walk as angels in the places we live, striving to live in the way of Jesus. We extend out gratitude for being able to come before you this day to offer our worship, to seek your presence, and to be restored to do great things among your people. For this and every day of life, we give you thanks and praise. In the name of the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

From A Very UCC Christmas

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Woody Kita

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,

and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O LORD, your people,

the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,

and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame,

those with child and those in labor, together;

a great company, they shall return here.
With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

Story/Sermon: Promise of Homecoming

Rev. Jihey Esther Roach

Pastoral Prayer:

Rev. Jihey Esther Roach

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: The Spruce Op.75 No.5-- Sibelius

Kanako Okita

Call to Offering

Woody Kita

God, you call us to give as we have received in this Christmas Season. As you have shared your Child with us, help us to share our blessing with those in need.

Please join me in the Offertory Prayer

Woody Kita

God of Vision,

Take these offerings of our gifts
and turn them into vision;
vision of all people fed,
vision of all people safe,
vision of all people in your presence,
vision of all people healed. Amen.

Anthem: Jesus, Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

IMMV Bank

Celebration of Holy Communion

Rev. Jihey Esther Roach

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Remembering

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence. We have been led, Eternal One, by your light. We thank you for your word of promise which was fulfilled by your bread of life and cup of celebration. May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen.

Announcements

Rev. Jihey Esther Roach

Benediction

Rev. Jihey Esther Roach

Postlude: Blessed O Emmanuel – Bach arr. Thompson

Kayleen Yuda

O Little Town of Bethlehem performed by Drew Brown
Jesus, Jesus, What a Wonderful Child performed by IMMV Band
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. Jihey Esther Roach

Moderator

Woody Kita

Lay Reader

Woody Kita

Chapel Decorations

Laura Ota

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