

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Online Worship, March 7, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Prelude: Bread of the World in Mercy Broken—Caulkins (Tune Rendez A Dieu by Bourgeois)
Kayleen Yuda

Call to Worship: *based on 1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

Barbara Iwami

Leader: A crucified Savior? How does that make sense?

All: A crucified Savior sounds foolish, but to us it reveals the power of God.

Leader: Where are the signs of power? Where is the hidden wisdom?

All: Christ crucified is a stumbling block to those who look for signs and foolishness to those who look for knowledge.

Leader: Common sense tells us that the powerful will wield power, the knowledgeable will show knowledge.

All: We claim that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. In this faith, let us worship God!

Invocation: *based Exodus 20, 1-17*

Barbara Iwami

We remember your standards, O God. We remember not to put other gods before you, or to make idols, or to misuse your holiness. We remember that you summon us to a day of rest, and that we should honor our parents as well as yourself. We remember not to murder, commit adultery, steal, or lie. We remember that envy is the poison of relationships. We remember these things, O God, sometimes by honoring them in our deeds, and sometimes by repenting them in our confession. Receive us in all our success and failure, O God, in this time of worship. Amen.

Hymn Duet #72: Sekai no Tomo

Eric Anderson

Doug Albertson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

Scripture:

Barbara Iwami

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.
The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this

temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Story/Sermon: Turning Tables

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: Blessed Redeemer-- Harry Dixon Loes arr. Stan Pethel

Kanako Okita

Call to Offering:

Barbara Iwami

We invite you to an offering. Jesus found that even God’s temple could be put to uses God never intended. We have seen the same in the world. Let us share our gifts so that we might, by God’s grace, make the world more like God’s vision of peace, shalom, and aloha. Please send your offering through the mail in an envelope to 440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai’i, 96720, or give online at holycrosshilo.com/donate. Let us pray together:

Offertory Prayer

Barbara Iwami

Accept these gifts, O God, and bless them. Bless them not to our selfishness, for we do that ourselves. Bless them not to our pride, for we do that ourselves, too. Bless these gifts to our loving and caring hearts, which we extend to you. Amen.

Vocal Anthem: Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life—George Herbert

Eric Anderson

Doug Albertson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to Holy Communion, reflecting on the Ten Words of the Exodus

God brought us to this table, a place safe from human slaveries.

We shall not treat our traditions like gods, or make idols of a particular Bread and Cup.

We will not imply that a sacrament shared at a kitchen table is less real than any other, for that is to misuse God’s name.

We remember that this virtual experience is worship, and keep it holy. Just because we can turn off our video to retrieve laundry to fold, and then fold it, we don’t. There is no beatitude ‘Blessed are the multitaskers.’

This virtual time is a sabbath to God. This sacrament's consecration is in the story that stretches back to beyond the light years of light years.

We honor the communion of saints and name the ones precious to each of us personally, and then acknowledge those we do not know who have passed into grace, especially those who do not look like us, speak our language, love as we love, worship as we do – for their heritage is our heritage and the future of their children is our future.

We set down this sacred offering, confessing our complicity in things that kill, that betray, that steal (even if it legal) and committing to a reconciliation as real as this Bread and Cup.

We will not bear false news of our neighbors, or share, re-post, re-tweet it, nor will we doom scroll God's Spirit within us.

We will not covet last year's service or next year's service. We will not covet sung kyries and glorias or the simplicity of "Let Us Break Bread Together," in a time when we do not sing. We will not covet another community's sophisticated technical platform or the homeyness of a pastor's dog barking. We will not covet any other experience of the Body of Christ or the Cup of Blessing than the one we are sharing now.

Words of Remembering

In Lent we come to remember
that there is a time not to eat the stones
even when it seems useful,
and there is a time for a meal scented
with the uneconomical joy
of a broken alabaster jar.

We remember that Jesus
suggested in Bethany that one bowl
with one selection is a good meal,
but served a hillside picnic
with so many leftovers,
their gathered abundance
could be shared with others.

We remember that Jesus
turned over tables in the Temple
and we confess that our church tables,
our practices, plans and programs,
should be overturned,

until our house be one of prayer
and our table serve compassion

to those most vulnerable.

And we remember that Jesus Christ
sitting among those
whose feet he had washed
at the Passover table
of precious and ancient tradition,
anticipated betrayal and desertion,
pain and even death,

but made a new Covenant
of blessed bread and poured wine
on a global table,
inviting us always to share
from our brokenness and grace.

Please join me in the Prayer of Consecration *from Psalm 19*

O God, the sky speaks your glory and deep space your creation. Daybreak announces hope and starlight sings rest in a language that needs no translation but joy. Nothing is hidden from you, and you make no barriers for human understanding. We are revived, enlivened, warned, and comforted. Beyond even the bright and sweet parables of our lives, you free us from definitions of relationship based in dominion and being dominated and you lead us to words of reconciliation and grace. So reconciled, we pray:

Let the Bread of our mouths and the Cup upon which our hearts meditate, be acceptable to you, O God, at this ordinary table and in our lives of redeeming. Amen

(Breaking of the bread and lifting of the cup)

Sharing of the Elements

Leader: Let us at many tables receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

Unison: We come to Christ in the Bread we share.

Leader: Let us in many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

Unison: We come to Christ in the Cup we share.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: In thanksgiving for this sustenance on our Lenten journey and the grace of holy dispersion in virtual worship, we claim the story of Jesus Christ as our own, a path of healing and service, the cross and the ever-present truth of the resurrection. Let us pray:

O Holy One, we come to you with our weariness and hope. We thank you for the rest and

strength of this Communion so that we may re-turn our tables to service in the world and hear your words of guidance every day and every night through Jesus Christ, our Teacher, Redeemer, and Friend. Amen.

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Postlude—McKay

Kayleen Yuda

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Sekai no Tomo (Here, O God, Your Servants Gather)

Text: Yokuo Yamaguchi, trans. Everett M. Stowe

Text: © 1958, United Methodist Publishing House/Abingdon Press

Tune: TOKYO Isao Koizumi Setting © 2016 Augsburg Fortress

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Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

Text: George Herbert, 1593-1632.

Music: Five Mystical Songs; Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958.

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Minister

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator

Woody Kita

Lay Reader

Barbara Iwami

Chapel Decorations

Jane Kawazoe

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 p.m. via Zoom
- **Pickleball:** Mondays, 12 noon, Thursdays, 8:30 a.m., Saturdays 1:00 p.m., Building of Faith
- **Online Song** – Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. online
- **Community Concert** -- 2nd & 4th Fridays, 6:00 p.m. online