

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Online Worship, April 4, 2021  
Easter Sunday

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Fanfare on “Easter Hymn”** – Chesterton

Kayleen Yuda, pianist  
Paul Arceo, trumpeter

**Welcome**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Prelude:** Rise to Victory--Birchwood

Kayleen Yuda, pianist  
Paul Arceo, trumpeter

**Call to Worship:**

Nalyn Ang

Leader: The morning came. They sought Jesus where he had been laid.

**All: They sought him, but they did not find him where they had confined him.**

Leader: The morning came. The fact of Friday – death and sorrow – could no longer be assumed.

**All: They sought him in the houses of the dead, but death could never hold the Christ.**

Leader: This morning comes, and we rejoice because the certainty of death has fallen to the victory of life.

**All: Praise to Jesus, God’s Anointed, who has given us this triumph over the grave!**

Invocation: *based on Isaiah 25:6-9*

Nalyn Ang

**Tears still drift upon our cheeks, O God, for stress and grief and pain and fear. Some of our tears today, O God, are tears of joy and triumph and renewal. On this day as we celebrate the resurrection of the Christ, give life to us in all our loss and woe, in all our ache and dread. By dying Christ has conquered death; by rising he has welcomed us into eternal life. Praise Jesus on this festal day, and sing we Alleluia! Amen.**

**Hymn Duet #233:** Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Eric Anderson  
Doug Albertson  
Movement led by Genie Phillips

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Nalyn Ang

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.

**Story/Sermon:** Unfinished Story

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:** Beethoven’s piano sonata No.25 1st mvt

Kanako Okita

**Call to Offering**

Nalyn Ang

We invite you to an offering. God has given us life. Jesus Christ has promised us new life. The Holy Spirit has blessed our lives. For such gifts, let us offer our thanks, and let us share our substance so that others may rejoice in God’s blessings. 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](http://holycrosshilo.com/donate). Let us pray together:

**Offertory Prayer:**

**Creator, Savior, Holy Spirit: Accept the offerings of your people, presented in praise of Jesus' resurrection, and extended as sharing of his love with all the world. By them bless us who give them, and by them bless those who will benefit by them. May your love in all our lives be as bright as the sun and the stars. Amen.**

**Vocal Anthem:** Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise-Johnson      Joanne Pocsidio, soprano  
Jeri Gertz, alto  
Eric Anderson, tenor  
Doug Albertson, bass  
Kayleen Yuda, pianist  
Paul Arceo, trumpeter

**Service of Holy Communion**

Pastor: The Passover meal was supposed to be the joyful one. It celebrated the freedom of the Hebrew people, their deliverance from slavery, their settlement into their land and home. On that Thursday night, however, Jesus spoke not of freedom but of obligation, not of deliverance but of betrayal, not of home but of death. The evening rapidly cascaded into chaos, with disciples making bold assertions that Jesus contradicted, with one slipping quietly away, to emerge from the night accompanied by soldiers to take Jesus away to trial, condemnation, and death.

The meal at Emmaus was supposed to be the sorrowful one. It took place after the festival was over. It was shared by friends grieving the events that had shattered their holy day, and by a stranger they had met on the road. They could not accept what they called "the idle tale" of the women who spoke of angels and resurrection. The certainty of their sorrow, however, was broken with the bread. Suddenly they knew of Jesus' life, that all the powers of Earth that had sought to crush the grace of God had failed, and even as Christ vanished from their sight they recognized the burning within their hearts.

This is neither the table of the Last Supper of Jesus nor the table of the broken bread of Emmaus. This is the table, however, inspired by Christ's words about his body and blood found in bread and cup. This is the table emboldened by the experience of Emmaus. This is the table at which we seek, we meet, and we are fed by the risen Jesus.

Let us pray:

Pastor: We have seen celebrations saddened more than once, O God. Each season of our lives has brought its losses: losses of dearly held illusions, losses of purpose or possibility, losses of loved ones. We bring these sorrows to our celebrations. We do not forget them. May we remember today that one of the ways that love persists is in sorrow and loss and grief. May we remember that made for love, we continue to love, even as life ends.

May we remember also today that love is as strong as death, that your love in Christ Jesus is stronger than death. Your love has made the stars and planets, the mountains and the oceans, the people and the living things with which we share the world. Your love has come to us in Jesus, and even when some would reject that love, your love emerged once more from the cave in which they tried to hide it, emerged as life and grace and power. Your love flew free once more, filling the rejoicing messengers of Jesus with the Holy Spirit, sending them out with good and grace-filled news for all the world. Love is stronger than death. Love is sovereign over rejection. Love flies free.

Send your Holy Spirit to all these tables, these tables that support daily bread and rice, vegetables and beans, fish and meat. Send your Holy Spirit to bless the breads and cups now gracing these tables, echoing the words of Jesus that we would find his body in the bread and the blood in the cup, echoing the grace of Jesus that we seek at these tables. May we, in the eating and the drinking, sustain our bodies for their works of love. May we, in the eating and the drinking, sustain our spirits for their sharing of love. May we, in the eating and the drinking, empower our souls to receive your love and embrace it.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Pastor: In the bread which we break, we participate in the body of Christ.

**All: Fill us, dear God, with the strength of your love.**

Pastor: In the cup which we bless, we participate in the new life Christ brings.

**All: Fill us, dear God, with the wonder of your life.**

Pastor: Let us pray:

**All: We praise you, O God, for being present at our tables, and for granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and bring us into each day in courage and in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the life of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn #253: Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!**

Eric Anderson

Doug Albertson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

**Announcements:**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Benediction:**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Postlude: Easter Joy -- Blake**

Kayleen Yuda, pianist

Paul Arceo, trumpeter

**Permissions**

Hail the Day that Sees him Rise

Lyrics: Charles Wesley

Tune LLANFAIR: Robert Williams

Arrangement: Victor C. Johnson

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Mahalo to all our guest musicians for sharing your talents today: Paul Arceo, trumpet; Jeri Gertz, alto; and Joanne Pocsidio, soprano. Mahalo also to the musicians who brighten each Sunday: Doug Albertson, choir director; Kanako Okita, pianist; and Kayleen Yuda, organist. You have all added to our Easter joy.

Further thanks to today's other worship leaders and live streaming team: Nalyn Ang, Janet Fujioka, Ruth Niino-DuPonte, Genie Phillips, and Eric Tanouye. Mahalo!

### **Dates to Remember**

Today, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday

Today, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Trustees Meeting after worship

<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Eric S. Anderson
<b>Moderator</b>	Woody Kita
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Nalyn Ang
<b>Chapel Decorations</b>	Janet Fujioka
<b>Choir Accompanist</b>	Kanako Okita
<b>Choir Director</b>	Doug Albertson
<b>Organist</b>	Kayleen Yuda
<b>Trumpeter</b>	Paul Arceo
<b>Quartet</b>	Joanne Pocsidio, Jeri Gertz, Doug Albertson, Eric Anderson
<b>Hand Bell Director</b>	Anna Kennedy
<b>Childcare Coordinator</b>	Evonne Shioshita
<b>Movement Leader</b>	Genie Phillips
<b>Projected Imagery</b>	Sue Smith
<b>Web Master</b>	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** -- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, 6:00 p.m. online