

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL

440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i

Online Worship August 29, 2021

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Welcome:

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Prelude: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling—Zundel-arr. Dorian Kayleen Yuda

Call to Worship: *based on Psalm 15*

Cindy Debus

Leader: Who can abide in the house of the LORD? Who can dwell on God's holy hill?

All: God summons those who walk without blame, who speak the truth from their hearts.

Leader: May we never slander with our tongues or do evil to our friends.

All: May we never take up reproach against our neighbors.

Leader: God summons us to these ways of living, for they bring joy to the human heart.

All: May we live these ways and worship God our whole lives long!

Invocation: *based on Psalm 45:6-9*

Your power and majesty, O God, endure forever. You rule with equity unmatched by human governments. You love righteousness, you weep at the folly of humanity. Anoint us, O God, with the oil of gladness. Make us joyful with the music of strings and flutes. Let this time of worship bring us closer to your love and mercy, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn #423: Great Is Your Faithfulness

Marlise Ahuna

Doug Albertson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

Scripture

Cindy Debus

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 7:1-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles. So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’ But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban’ (that is, an offering to God^[e])— then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, “Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, “It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Story/Sermon: Devotion Without and Within

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

Anthem: Holy Is the Lord—Deford

Marlise Ahuna, soloist
Kayleen Yuda, organist

Call to Offering:

Cindy Debus

James wrote: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." Some of your gifts will be used to support our efforts to live and learn and grow in the faith of Jesus Christ. Some will go to raise up those cast down in the world. 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:

Receive these gifts, O God, for the care and relief of those in greatest distress in our world. Receive these gifts so that we may join our hearts in the effort to keep ourselves in your ways, not the world's. Bless them by your Holy Spirit of grace. Amen.

Vocal Anthem #584: I Am the Light of the World

Eric Anderson
Doug Albertson
Movement led by Genie Phillips

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Trumpet Tune – Albinoni—arr. Wolff

Kayleen Yuda

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Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Tune by William M. Runyan: © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

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I Am the Light of the World

Tune: © 1969 Desert Flower Music/Jim and Jean Strathdee

Text: In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Tune: BEECHER by John Zundel (1870)

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Holy Is the Lord

Text and Tune by Sally Deford

Streamed by permission of the composer

defordmusic.com/faq

Trumpet Tune

Tune by Tomaso Albinoni

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Dates to Remember

Today, August 29 – Stewardship & Mission Meeting via Zoom

Pastor	Rev. Eric S. Anderson
Moderator	Woody Kita
Lay Reader	Cindy Debus
Chapel Decorations	Katada & Tadaki Families
Choir Accompanist	Kanako Okita
Choir Director	Doug Albertson
Organist	Kayleen Yuda
Hand Bell Director	Anna Kennedy
Childcare Coordinator	Evonne Shioshita
Movement Leader	Genie Phillips
Projected Imagery	Sue Smith
Web Master	Ruth Niino-DuPonte
Videographers	Eric Tanouye, Bob Smith, 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, Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m., Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m., Thursdays, 8:30 a.m., Saturdays 12:00 p.m., Sundays 1:30 p.m. Building of Faith—limited to 10 attendees
- **Online Song** – Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. online
- **Community Concert** – 2nd and 4th Fridays, 6:00 p.m. online