

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Online Worship September 5, 2021
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Prelude: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind—Blake, Tune: F. Maker

Kayleen Yuda

Call to Worship: *based on Psalm 125*

Barbara Iwami

Leader: The Psalmist says, “Those who trust in the LORD are like the mountain which cannot be moved.”

All: Yet we know that the mountains move of themselves; they build themselves, they rise.

Leader: The Psalmist says, “The scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,”

All: Yet time after time we see those we call righteous doing things that harm.

Leader: We pray with the Psalmist that God might lift up those who are upright in heart and in deed.

All: We pray for righteousness and grace in our community and our world. Peace be upon us!

Invocation: *based on Psalm 146*

Barbara Iwami

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! Receive our praise, O God, as we lift it all our living days. May we be happy in your help, O God, who made heaven and earth. Give justice to the oppressed, give food to the hungry. Set the prisoners free. May those who seek health and healing find it. Reign forever, O God, in the praise of your people. Amen.

Hymn #5: Praise to God

Eric Anderson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

Scripture

Barbara Iwami

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with

evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Story/Sermon: Fair? What’s Fair?

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: Waltz in A minor, B.150--Chopin Kanako Okita

Call to Offering Barbara Iwami

James wrote truly that a faith that does not give, does not share, does not act, is dead. Revive your faith in this moment with an act of sharing. 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

Accept these gifts, O God, and renew our faith. We declare our love for you and we declare our love for your children in these offerings. Bless your people through our giving, through our living, and through our faithfulness. Amen.

Vocal Anthem #332: As We Gather at Your Table

Eric Anderson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

So often this invitation to Communion
calls you to “come”
to a table –
mind, heart, spirit, sometimes body.

Today you are reminded of this other truth –
Communion always comes to us.
We don't “make it”
with our baking or our prayers.
God is so wildly generous,
no one needs to move an inch.

Please stay put,
wherever and whoever you are,
Communion with God is coming to you.
Prepare to welcome your Guest

Prayer of Remembrance and Consecration

We remember so many different
tables of Jesus –
his acceptance of hospitality
from Peter's mother-in-law and Martha,
from Simon so suspicious of sex workers,
Zacchaeus, love-venture capitalist,
and one boy with a small picnic lunch.

We remember Jesus learning
the reality lesson
about who eats on and who eats under
the tables of the world
from a Syrophenician woman,
and his teaching his disciples
that lesson another evening
gently and with foot washing.

We remember the Passover meal
with a betrayer and a denier present,
and everyone scared and so confused.
Jesus used what was familiar,
bread already on the table
a cup from which they had drunk.

Always, even today, in the accessible ordinary
anyone can reach the holiest food,
and even a single cupped hand
can hold this rush of wet blessing.

Unison: Holy God, bless every bread near the mouth of any one of your children so that it becomes the strength and hope and holiness each of us needs. Bless the small plastic cup or the beautiful chalice – and every glass in between – that reminds us that we can never spill your love, and we always and in all places drink your healing. Amen.

Sharing of the Elements

Leader: You hold the bread of heaven. Honor it.
It is consecrated to perfectly match your need. Receive it.

Unison: We eat it in hope.

Leader: You hold the cup of blessing. Honor it.
It is consecrated so you become one of the Saints of Communion.
Receive this one small sip – deeply.

Unison: We drink it in joy.

Please join me in the Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

O God, we give you thanks that no one is over your table and no one is under your table, but that we all share your love together. We are in the midst of difficult times for all your children – illness, fire, heat, storm, earthquake, violence – and particular sorrows and griefs and decisions for those we know. We are so grateful that you have brought this Communion

to us, so we may surround with its strength and comfort those we know, and search out those we do not know, to offer hope and help widely and freely. Amen.

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Behold, the Master Cometh--Moore

Kayleen Yuda

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Communion liturgy by Maren Tirabassi

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Praise to God

Tune: SAKURA, Japanese trad.

Text by Nobuaki Hanaoka, 1980, © 1983, Abingdon Press

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As We Gather at Your Table

Tune: BEACH SPRING, 1844

Text by Carl P. Daw, 1989, © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

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Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Frederick C. Maker, George Blake

Tune: ©1980 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. By Music Services)

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Behold The Master Cometh

Contributors: Donald Lee Moore

Tune: © 1984 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services)

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Dates to Remember

Today, September 5 – Trustees Meeting after worship

Today, September 5 – Budget Committee meeting after Trustees meeting

Monday, September 6 – Labor Day observed, CHC office closed

Pastor

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator

Woody Kita

Lay Reader

Barbara Iwami

Chapel Decorations

Moira Tanaka

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
Videographers	Eric Tanouye, Bob Smith, Jon Tanouye

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