

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL

440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i

Service of Worship, September 18, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Please note that audio and video of this service are being live streamed on the Internet and will be recorded. The right rear section of the sanctuary will not be captured by any cameras. Please be aware that in other sections you may be visible at times.

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Prelude: Prelude

Kayleen Yuda

Call to Worship: *based on Luke 16:1-13*

Bob Smith

Leader: Jesus told a story about a careless and dishonest manager.

All: There came a time when his failures were found out.

Leader: In the story, he gave the clients discounts so they would be grateful later.

All: In the story, the manager's boss commended his shrewdness.

Leader: Jesus then asked, Have you made friends by using your wealth, or have you made friends with your wealth itself?

All: May we be faithful to God in all we do, and not give it up for money and gain.

Leader: Let us worship God.

Invocation: *based on Psalm 113*

Bob Smith

We praise you, O LORD, and bless your name from this time on and forevermore. We praise you from the rising of the sun until its setting, and we praise you as the stars emerge to grace the night. Who is like you, O God, that raises the poor from the dust and the needy from the ash heap, and makes them sit with the mighty of the nations? We praise you, O God, from this time on and forevermore! Amen.

Hymn Duet with Movement: There is a Balm in Gilead

Eric Anderson

Movement led by Genie Phillips

Time with the Children

Instrumental Anthem: Be Still, My Soul (FINLANDIA)

Kanako Okita

Scripture

Bob Smith

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,
my heart is sick.

Hark, the cry of my poor people
from far and wide in the land:

'Is the LORD not in Zion?

Is her King not in her?'

('Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
with their foreign idols?')

'The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved.'

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,

and my eyes a fountain of tears,

so that I might weep day and night

for the slain of my poor people!

Psalms 79:1-9

O God, the nations have come into your inheritance;

they have defiled your holy temple;

they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

They have given the bodies of your servants

to the birds of the air for food,

the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.

They have poured out their blood like water

all around Jerusalem,

and there was no one to bury them.

We have become a taunt to our neighbors,

mocked and derided by those around us.

How long, O LORD? Will you be angry for ever?

Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?

Pour out your anger on the nations

that do not know you,

and on the kingdoms

that do not call on your name.

For they have devoured Jacob

and laid waste his habitation.

Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors;
let your compassion come speedily to meet us,
for we are brought very low.
Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and forgive our sins,
for your name's sake.

Sermon: Is There No Balm in Gilead?

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Please stand and 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

Call to Offering

Bob Smith

Sometimes our days bring us joy; sometimes our days bring us sorrow. Because God is present and faithful in good times and in bad, we praise God with our prayers, our voices, and our gifts. Whether you share your gift here in the church today, through a gift online, or via an envelope in the mail, let the offering now be received.

Offertory: Recitative for Flute

Kayleen Yuda

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost - Amen**

Offertory Prayer

Bob Smith

Holy One, always present, receive these gifts from your grateful people. May we always live in confidence of your abiding love, whether our days bring hardship or glory. Amen.

Hymn Duet: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Eric S. Anderson

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Refresh My Heart, O God

Kayleen Yuda

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There Is a Balm in Gilead

African-American spiritual

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Be Still, My Soul

Tune FINLANDIA by Jean Sibelius, 1899

Public Domain

Recitative for Flute –David Paxton

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Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Text and tune PRECIOUS LORD by Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

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Refresh My Heart, O God—Robert Powell

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Dates to Remember

Today, September 18 – Deacons Meeting after worship

Pastor

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator

Woody Kita

Lay Reader

Bob Smith

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

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