

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship, January 7, 2024
First Sunday after Epiphany

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.

Prelude: Processional for the New Year

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

*** Call to Worship:** (based on Ephesians 3:1-12)

Stefan Tanouye

Leader: The depth of God's grace has been a mystery for generations.

People: **In Jesus Christ, that grace is still mysterious, but so much better known.**

Leader: God's love, we learn, is for all people, not just some.

People: **All people are the heirs of promises from ancient times and today's bearers of the Spirit.**

Leader: Now we perceive the outlines of God's plan:

People: **To give us access to God in boldness and in confidence through faith in Jesus Christ.**

All: Let us worship God!

*** Hymn:** We Three Kings (v. 1-5) (insert)

*** Invocation:** (based on Palm 72:1-7, 10-14)

Stefan Tanouye

In Jesus we find your justice, O God, and the righteousness by which you rule. We pray that righteousness be found in all human rulers and judges: that they may defend the cause of the poor, give deliverance to the needy, and curtail the power of oppressors. To Christ we turn for justice that descends like rain, and righteousness

that rises like flowers. May peace endure until the moon no longer shines above the earth. Reveal your justice, O God, and may righteousness abound. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Little Yeshua

Penelope Hunt, soprano

Time with the Children

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6

Stefan Tanouye

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon: Main Attraction

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

Call to Offering

Stefan Tanouye

They called them wise because they were scholars. Did they still think them wise when they followed the flickering light of a star? We call them wise because they came to seek a saving child, and because they persisted until he was found. We call them wise because they came prepared to give, and they gave. 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: Spirit of the Living God

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**

Stefan Tanouye

May we be wise enough, O God, to follow the Magi to Jesus' side, to offer our gifts there, and from there follow Jesus through our nights and our days. Amen.

*** Hymn #336:** Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face (v. 1-3)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Consecrating the Bread and Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* **Hymn #584:** I Am the Light of the World (v. 1-4)

Please be seated

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: We Three Kings

Kayleen Yuda

* **Please stand if you are able.**

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Processional for the New Year

Contributor George Blake

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We Three Kings of Orient Are

Text by John H. Hopkins, 1857

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Little Yeshua

Text by Claire & Curt Cloninger

Music by Gary Rhodes

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Spirit of the Living God

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Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

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I Am the Light of the World

Text by Jim Strathdee, 1969

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

Tune LIGHT OF THE WORLD by Jim Strathdee, 1969

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We Three Kings

Text by John H. Hopkins, 1857

Tune KINGS OF ORIENT by John H. Hopkins, 1857

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Guest Pastor

Moderator

Lay Reader

Choir Accompanist

Choir Director

Organist

Guest soloist

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Videographers

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Rev. Jonathan Roach

Stefan Tanouye

Stefan Tanouye

Kanako Okita

Doug Albertson

Kayleen Yuda

Penelope Hunt

Anna Kennedy

Tricia Kimura

Evonne Shioshita

Sue Smith

Ruth Niino-DuPonte

Eric Tanouye, Eli Yamaki

Ruth Niino-DuPonte

We welcome you to worship this day. Church of the Holy Cross seeks to help its members, friends, and visitors follow the guidance of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, encouraging all people to love one another according to the teachings of Jesus. We live and teach the faith, speak good news, minister to people near and far, and work with other households of faith and helping agencies to improve our community and our world. To learn more visit our website at holycrosshilo.com



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