

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship, January 14, 2024
Second 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: Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

*** Call to Worship:** (based on 1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

Leader: All things are lawful, says the Scripture, but not all things are beneficial.

People: **What is not forbidden may not be good for our bodies or our souls.**

Leader: What is forbidden may nevertheless be forgiven.

People: **But does it make sense to do things that harm ourselves or others?**

Leader: Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit within you, the Holy Spirit which is from God.

People: **We are God's in heart, in body, and in soul, so we will glorify God with our bodies.**

All: Let us worship God!

*** Hymn #451:** Be Now My Vision (v. 1-4)

*** Invocation:** (based on Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18)

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

You have searched us, O God. You know us. Whether we wake or sleep, from far away you hold us in your thoughts. Even before we speak a word, O God, you know what others will hear. You know us better than we know ourselves, a knowledge we cannot fully grasp. We praise you this morning, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made, wonderful among all the things that you have made. Receive our worship, for we are here with you. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: What You Gonna Call Your Pretty Little Baby? Holy Cross Singers

Time with the Children

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

Sermon: Here I Am

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**

*** Hymn #448:** Take My Life, God, Let It Be (v. 1-4)

Call to Offering

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

How did Jesus know them? He knew Philip and Nathanael in ways not available to us, ways that assured them and inspired them. Jesus knows us, too. May Christ's love assure us and inspire us to give of ourselves as disciples. 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: Praise Ye the Lord

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**

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

We follow your lead through our days, O Christ. May you bless our faithfulness and guide our giving. Accept these offerings, we pray. Amen.

*** Hymn #455: I Am Yours, O Lord (v. 1-4)**

Please be seated

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Blessed Assurance

Kayleen Yuda

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

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Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God

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Be Now My Vision

Irish text, trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905

Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

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Tune SLANE trad. Irish melody

Harm. By David Evans, 1927

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What You Gonna Call Your Pretty Little Baby?

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Praise Ye the Lord

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I Am Yours, O Lord
Text by Fanny Crosby, 1874
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