

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship, March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent

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: Think on Me

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

*** Please stand and join me in the Call to Worship:** (based on Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22)

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, whose steadfast love endures forever!

People: **We give thanks to the LORD, who has rescued us from the troubles of our lives.**

Leader: Come from the lands in the east and west, in the north and south.

People: **Cry to the LORD in your trouble, and find comfort for your distress.**

Leader: Let us thank God for steadfast love and extravagant gifts to all of humankind.

People: **We offer our sacrifices of thanksgiving; we sing God's deeds with songs of joy!**

All: **Let us worship God!**

*** Hymn #223:** What Wondrous Love Is This (v. 1-3)

*** Invocation** (based on Ephesians 2:1-10)

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

We have known what it is to be far from you, O God, to be uncertain whether you would hear our prayers. You are richer in mercy than our fears describe, and in raising Christ you have raised our hopes and our faith. Create us and recreate us in

Christ to do good things in the world, O God, to fulfill the lives you appointed for us in the depths of time. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Saints Bound for Heaven

Holy Cross Singers

Time with the Children

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

Sermon: Peculiar

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

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 #605:** As Moses Raised the Serpent Up (v. 1-3)

Call to Offering

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

When we turn to the world around us, it is filled with God's gifts. When we look within our spirit, it is also filled with God's gifts. May our offerings today help to fill the bodies, the minds, and the spirits of others who yearn for wholeness. 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: Presence Divine

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

Your self-giving is beyond our understanding, our imagination, and our imitation, O God. Nevertheless we dare to present these gifts to you, and to present ourselves as living gifts each day of our lives, in the hopes of your loving embrace. Amen.

* **Hymn #222:** My Song is Love Unknown (v. 1-5)

Please be seated

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Postludium

Kayleen Yuda

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

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Think on Me

Lady John Scott

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What Wondrous Love Is This
Text by Joachim Neander, 1680
First published in *Mercer's Cluster*, 1836
Tune WONDROUS LOVE in *Southern Harmony*, 1843
Harmony *The New Century Hymnal*, 1993
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Saints Bound for Heaven
Arr. by Peter Paul Olejar
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Dates to Remember

Today: March 10—Council Meeting after worship

Pastor	Rev. Eric S. Anderson
Moderator	Stefan Tanouye
Lay Reader	Carolyn Lum-Bellem
Choir Accompanist	Kanako Okita
Choir Director	Doug Albertson
Organist	Kayleen Yuda
Hand Bell Director	Anna Kennedy
Chapel Decorations	Carolyn Lum-Bellem
Projected Imagery	Sue Smith
Web Master	Ruth Niino-DuPonte
Videographers	Eric Tanouye, Eli Yamaki Ruth Niino-DuPonte, Bob Smith

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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