

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Service of Worship, April 14, 2024
Third Sunday of Easter

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: Melodie in G Major

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

* **Call to Worship:** (based on Acts 3:12-19)

Woody Kita

Leader: We wonder at the mighty acts of God because they are wonder-full.

People: **The God of the ages has made the Rejected One into the Author of Life.**

Leader: Faith in God's goodness has healed bodies, minds, and souls.

People: **Faithful acts in God's name have healed families and communities.**

Leader: We may act ill in ignorance, we and our leaders,

People: **When we do we repent, and call upon the risen Christ.**

All: Forgiven and lifted up, let us worship God!

* **Hymn #12:** I Sing the Mighty Power of God (v. 1-3)

* **Invocation** (based on Psalm 4)

Woody Kita

Answer us when we call, O God our God. Be gracious to us and hear our prayers. We cry from our injuries, we cry from our shame. We cry from our truth, which others have called lies. Put gladness in our hearts, a joy greater than our most precious feasts. May we lie down and sleep in peace, sheltered by your grace. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Truly God Is God

Holy Cross Singers

Time with the Children

Scripture: 1 John 3:1-7

Woody Kita

See what love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Luke 24:36-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Sermon: God's Children Now

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 #13: O My Soul, Bless Your Creator (v. 1-5)**

Call to Offering

Woody Kita

Discipleship – following Jesus – does not have the clarity of perfection. It weaves from side to side, it goes back from time to time, it stalls. We do our best to help, to serve, and to give, in all the messiness of the world. 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: Offertory

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**

Woody Kita

Your imperfect people offer you these imperfect gifts, O God. Accept them, we pray, and help both your people and their gifts to serve the purposes of your grace and love. Amen.

*** Hymn #533: Children of God (v. 1-4)**

Please be seated

Announcements

Rev. Eris S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eris S. Anderson

Postlude: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Kayleen Yuda

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

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Melodie in G Major

Alexandre Guilmant

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I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Text by Isaac Watts, 1715

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Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

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Truly God Is God

Michael Barrett

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O My Soul, Bless Your Creator

Text from United Presbyterian Book of Psalms, 1871

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Children of God

Text by John Greenleaf Whittier, 1848

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Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

arr. Alice Jordan

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