

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Service of Worship, April 28, 2024
Fifth 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: A New Song

Rick Mazurowski

Lighting of the Candles

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

*** Please stand and join me in the Call to Worship:** (based on Psalm 22:25-31)
Anne Sadayasu

Leader: Let our praise echo that of the Great Congregation.

People: **We sing with all who revere the LORD.**

Leader: The poor shall eat and be satisfied, the homeless find their place.

People: **May the mercy of the LORD live forever!**

Leader: May all the ends of the Earth remember and turn to the LORD.

People: **Let us proclaim God's grace to a people yet unborn.**

All: Let us worship God!

*** Hymn #43:** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (v. 1-4)

*** Invocation** (based on John 15:1-8)

Anne Sadayasu

Jesus, True Vine, hear the prayers we raise today. As grape vines raise their leafy crowns so that the vineyard tender may help them bear more fruit, we invite your care for us today. May we abide in your love, and show by our love that we are your disciples. Apart from you we can do very little; with you all things are possible. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Silent Woods

Kanako Okita, piano
Kelly Stuart, cello

Time with the Children

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

Anne Sadayasu

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Sermon: Shouldn't It Be Simple

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 #163:** Many Are the Lightbeams (v. 1-3, 5)

Call to Offering

Anne Sadayasu

God is love, and because God loves us, we love one another. We love one another in words of comfort and deeds of hope, and we love one another by sharing what we have with another who has needs. 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: Be Still, for the presence of the Lord

Rick Mazurowski

* **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**

Anne Sadayasu

You love us, O God, and we are grateful. You love us, O God, and we are your beloved children. You love us, O God, and so we love one another in these gifts and every day of our lives. Amen.

*** Hymn #402: De colores (Sing of Colors) (v. 1 Spanish, 1-2)**

Please be seated

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Sing of the Lord's Goodness

Rick Mazurowski

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

Permissions

A New Song

James E. Moore Jr.

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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Text by Charles Wesley, 1747

Tune BEECHER by John Zundel, 1855

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Silent Woods

Dvořák

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Many Are the Lightbeams

Text by Cyprian of Carthage, 252

Swedish para. By Anders Frostenson

Trans. by David Lewis, 1983

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Tune LIGHTBEAMS by Olle Widestrand

© 1974 by Olle Widestrand

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Be Still, for the presence of the Lord

Words and music by David J. Evans

Arr. by Richard Shephard

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De colores (Sing of Colors)

Mexican folk song, trans. New Century Hymnal, 1995

Tune DE COLORES, Mexican folk song

Arr. by Alfredo Morales, 1987

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Sing of the Lord's Goodness

Ernest Sands

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Dates to Remember

Today—April 28: J's Mini Mart

Pastor

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator

Stefan Tanouye

Lay Reader

Anne Sadayasu

Choir Accompanist

Kanako Okita

Cellist

Kelly Stuart

Choir Director

Doug Albertson

Organist

Kayleen Yuda

Guest Organist

Rick Mazurowski

Hand Bell Director

Anna Kennedy

Chapel Decorations

Cindy Debus

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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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