

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship June 16, 2024
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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: Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

* **Call to Worship:** (based on Psalm 20)

Barbara Iwami

Leader: May the LORD answer you when the days are full of trouble.

People: **May the God of Jacob protect us from harm.**

Leader: May God remember all your faithfulness and honor all your giving.

People: **May God lead us to the fulfillment of our dreams.**

Leader: Some take pride in the trappings of wealth and power, but we exult in the name of God.

People: **Wealth fades and power falls, but we shall rise and stand upright in the grace of the LORD.**

All: Let us worship God!

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

* **Invocation:** (based on Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15)

Barbara Iwami

It is good to gather and give you thanks, O God. It is good to sing praises to your name. We declare your steadfast love in this morning, for you have been faithful all through the night. Let the righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a koa on the slopes of the mountains. You are upright; you are our rock. In your righteousness we bring you our worship. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: The Seasons, Op.37a, June, Barcarolle

Kanako Okita

Time with the Children

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Barbara Iwami

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Mark 4:26-34

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Sermon: Try Again, Samuel

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 #496:** Ekolu Mea Nui (Three Greatest Things) (v. 1-2)

Call to Offering

Barbara Iwami

Some tasks require new ways and approaches. Others respond to time-honored customs. Giving still opens the human heart, both to bless those around, and to receive God's blessings through that open door. 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: Trusting Thee

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**

Barbara Iwami

Accept these gifts and guide their use, O God, to things new or to things well known that serve, and bless, and aid. 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: See How Great a Flame Aspires

Kayleen Yuda

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

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Dates to Remember

Today—June 16: Deacons meeting

Pastor	Rev. Eric S. Anderson
Moderator	Stefan Tanouye
Lay Reader	Barbara Iwami
Choir Accompanist	Kanako Okita
Choir Director	Doug Albertson
Organist	Kayleen Yuda
Hand Bell Director	Anna Kennedy
Chapel Decorations	Gloria Kobayashi
Projected Imagery	Sue Smith
Web Master	Ruth Niino-DuPonte
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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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