

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Service of Worship September 1, 2024
Fifteenth 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: Kum Ba Yah

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

* **Call to Worship:** (based on Psalm 15)

John Narruhn

Leader: Who may abide in the tent of the LORD, or rest upon God's holy hill?

People: **Those who speak truth from their hearts and do what is right with their hands.**

Leader: Blessed are they who speak no slander, who do no evil to their friends.

People: **Blessed are they who do not heap shame upon their neighbors.**

Leader: Blessed are those who do not take advantage of another's need.

People: **May those who do these things never falter, never fail.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* **Hymn #498:** Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (v. 1-5)

* **Invocation:** (based on Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9)

John Narruhn

Your throne, O God, endures forever. The signs of your reign are equity and justice. You love righteousness; you frown at wickedness. May we receive the anointing oil of gladness as we worship you today. May our souls be filled with sweet fragrance and joyful music. Accept our worship, O God, and bless us by it. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Thank You, Lord, for the Trials

IYAA

Time with the Children

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Scripture: James 1:17-27

John Narruhn

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles. So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines."

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

Mark 7:14-15

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.'

Mark 7:21-23

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

Sermon: Inside and Outside

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer

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

Call to Offering

John Narruhn

We lay down our burdens in the grace of God. We take up our service in God's grace as well. This is a time to share our gifts with the Church of Jesus Christ, and through the Church, 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: God's Love Surrounds Us

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**

**May we do your word as we hear it, O God. May we understand your word and so do well. Accept these gifts, we pray, and by them fulfill your purposes in the world.
Amen.**

*** Hymn #337: Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether (v. 1-3)**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Consecrating the Bread and Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* **Hymn #454:** Lord, I Want To Be a Christian (v. 1-4)

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Great God of Glory

Kayleen Yuda

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

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Kum Ba Yah

Lani Smith

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Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Text by Tom Colvin, 1969

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Tune CHEREPONI Ghanian folk song

Arr. by Jane Marshall, 1982

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Thank You, Lord, for the Trials

Author Unknown

God's Love Surrounds Us

Carl Simone

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Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

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Tune I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN, African-American spiritual
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Great God of Glory
David Paxton
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Dates to Remember

Today, September 1 – Trustee’s Meeting

Pastor

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator

Stefan Tanouye

Lay Reader

John Narruhn

Choir Accompanist

Kanako Okita

Choir Director

Doug Albertson

Organist

Kayleen Yuda

Hand Bell Director

Anna Kennedy

Chapel Decorations

Carol Morioka

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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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